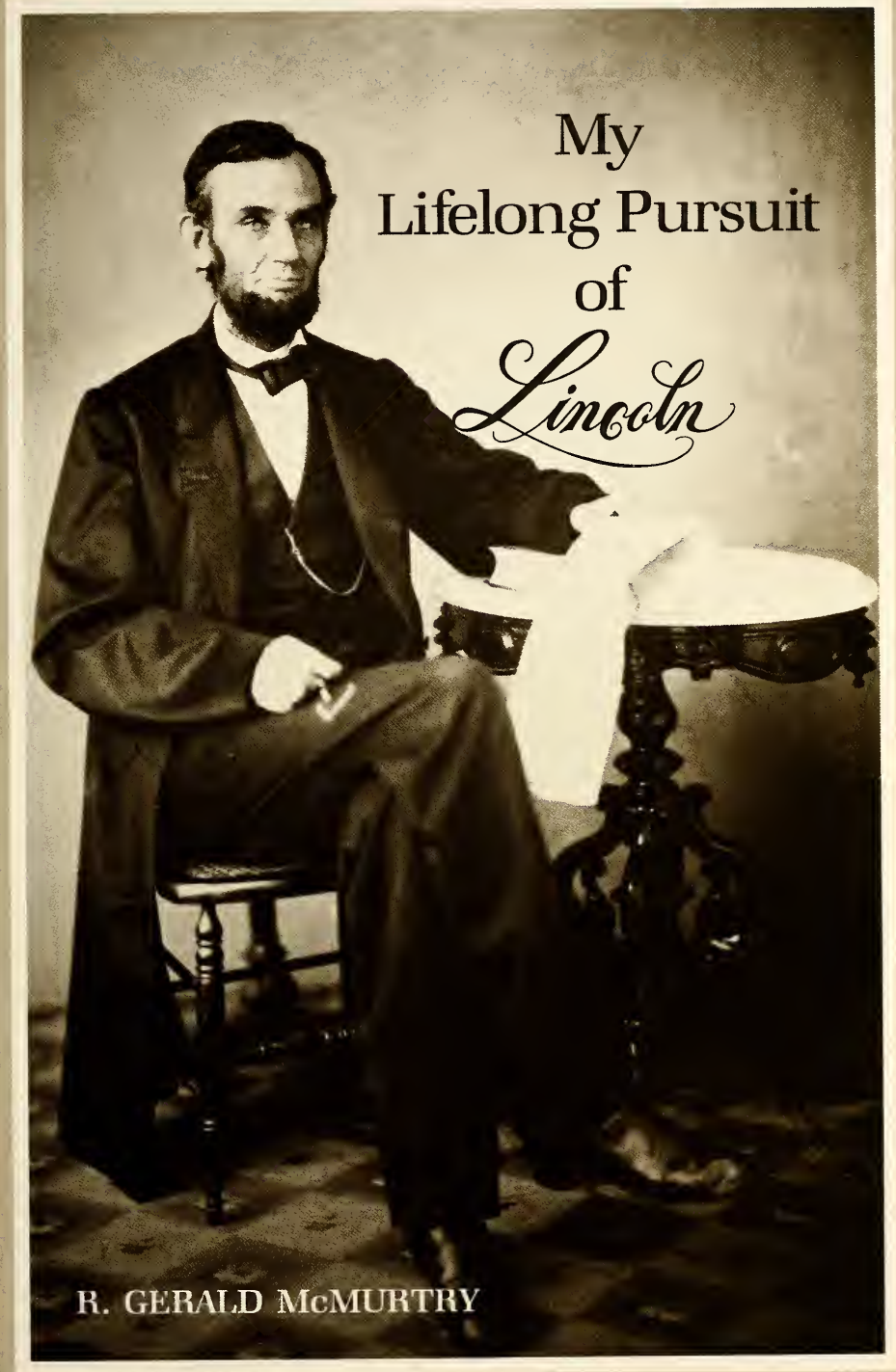
My
Lifelong Pursuit
of
Lincoln
R. GERALD McMURTRY

1981-5(1)

MY LIFELONG PURSUIT OF LINCOLN

Photograph by Stedman Studio

R. Gerald McMurtry.

My Lifelong Pursuit of Lincoln

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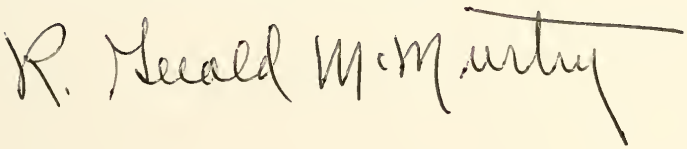

MCMLXXXI
Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

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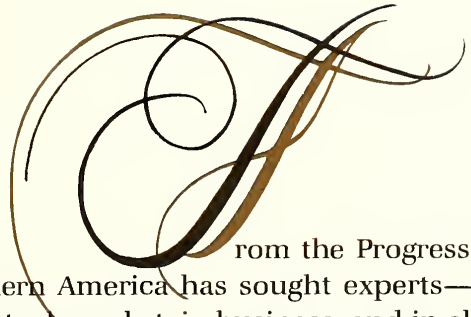
To my son and four daughters
born along the Lincoln trail

R. Gerald McMurtry with the first R. Gerald McMurtry Lecturer, Professor Richard N. Current of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



rom the Progressive Era to this day, modern America has sought experts—in government, in the stock market, in business, and in all scholarly endeavors. We pay lip service to the ideal of the Renaissance man, but we pay consulting fees, salaries, and our undivided attention to experts. In every field of endeavor, the dominant impulse is to specialize, specialize, specialize.

R. Gerald McMurtry was born in the Progressive Era, and his earliest memories cluster about the figures of the Progressive Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Yet he did not set out to become an expert. He developed a fondness for things historical and he had a solid liberal arts education, but the Great Depression was no time to be choosy. He sought only a job "to keep soul and body together," as Lincoln said of his early efforts at surveying. McMurtry tried surveying too, but luck—his high school class prophet would have called it fate—brought him to a fledgling research library devoted to the study of one man, Abraham Lincoln, in 1932. The library was four years old. Gerald McMurtry was twenty-six.

The job allowed him to pursue his historical interests and to stay warm during Depression winters (he remem-

bers the hard stares of less fortunate men who watched him walk to work in a good overcoat). It would be a mistake, however, to exaggerate his status. The head of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, Louis A. Warren, was twenty-one years McMurtry's senior, had published a definitive book on Lincoln's parentage and childhood, was embarked on his second career after years in the ministry, and was very much in charge. Starting at the bottom, however, had its advantages. McMurtry handled and catalogued many of the items that formed what would become one of the greatest Lincoln collections in the world. He learned to love the look and feel of old books, pamphlets, and letters. Warren instilled in him a respect for the documentary record. A boy who had searched for arrowheads and absorbed local historical lore was becoming a man who knew the real fundamentals of history: documents and reading.

The fruits of this foundation were to be enjoyed only later. The job was too modest to support a family, and with his marriage to Florence Koberly, McMurtry had to consider grim economic realities. Besides, he was a Kentuckian, brought to the study of Lincoln's life by a man who was an expert on Lincoln's Kentucky years. The lure of the bluegrass brought McMurtry home again and took him away from history to his parents' insurance agency. McMurtry was as yet no expert, and he might well have continued life as a solid member of that Kentucky gentry which is so peculiarly attracted to history in an amateur way. He wrote some excellent business for the agency (despite the modest and self-deprecatingly humorous account of these years in the pages that follow), and he might well have developed into a more successful agent who indulged the historical interests of his youth only by collecting Kentuckiana and antiques and by occasional after-dinner speeches at historical societies.

Fate intervened once again with the offer to establish a Department of Lincolniana at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. From his previous experience in Fort Wayne, he knew how to build a collection, and in the

course of building this university collection McMurtry became an expert. All of Lincolniana came to fascinate him, from Presidential manuscripts to porcelain memorabilia, from the most scholarly monographs to commemorative medallions.

A key to McMurtry's success lies in his personality. He has never suffered from the less attractive characteristics of some experts: narrow zealotry, arrogance, impatience with amateurs, or distant exclusivity. He has always given Lincoln's critics a fair hearing. Jealousy of the expert work of others is completely unknown to him. He is always generous in praising the scholarship and collections of other Lincoln scholars, students, and collectors. His taste in Lincolniana is catholic without being undiscriminating. When he recommends purchases, he always goes for manuscripts first. When he recommends prizes, he always rewards the solidest scholarship. A personal friend of Otto Eisenschiml, he has always said that Harold Hyman and Benjamin Thomas's biography of Edwin M. Stanton, a book which does not even dignify with a response Eisenschiml's insinuations about that great Secretary of War, is the best biography of a collateral figure in the Lincoln field.

Dr. McMurtry, in short, has many disciples and no enemies among the Lincoln fraternity. When, as his successor on the February lecture circuit, I speak where he spoke years ago, someone in the audience almost always asks after him. In many such audiences and in that enormous audience which read McMurtry's wonderfully varied and lively *Lincoln Lores* from 1956 to 1972, there are Lincoln students and collectors who got their start and their continuing inspiration from his work.

In 1978 we attempted to institutionalize this legacy at the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum by establishing the R. Gerald McMurtry Lectures. Each May a noted scholar comes to Fort Wayne to deliver a lecture on Lincoln. The variety thus far demonstrated fits the varied nature of Dr. McMurtry's interests: Richard N. Current on Lincoln's waning appeal to immigrant Americans, Don E. Fehrenbacher on Lincolniana's greatest detective story—

the publication of Wilma Frances Minor's notorious Lincoln forgeries, and Harold M. Hyman on the new atmosphere of constitutional freedom evinced in the Reconstruction policies of Lincoln's era. More important, they have exemplified what Dr. McMurtry always values most: lasting scholarship.

The lectures join many other lasting landmarks of Gerald McMurtry's work. In addition to books, pamphlets, and *Lincoln Lore*, there are the many issues of the *Lincoln Herald* he edited. There is the Lincoln collection at Lincoln Memorial University. There is the collection at the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. And there is more to come, as he continues his lifelong pursuit of Abraham Lincoln.

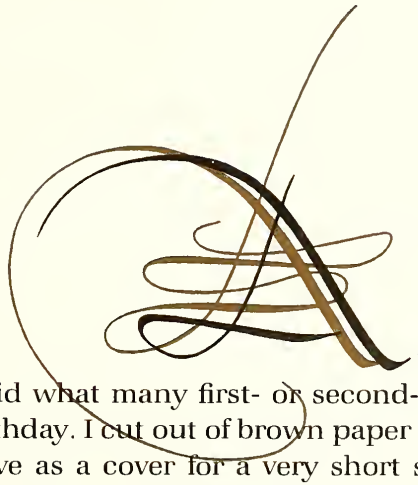
I persuaded Dr. McMurtry to write this memoir about a year ago. I had so often benefited from conversations with him about collecting, about the Lincoln fraternity of the past and present, and about the state of Lincoln scholarship in general, that it became one of my great hopes that he would let others in on these conversations, too. I knew they would laugh as I have laughed and gain inspiration as I have done from this genial rendering of a life spent in that most genial and democratic club, the Lincoln fraternity.

MARK E. NEELY, JR.

December 30, 1980

MY LIFELONG PURSUIT OF LINCOLN

R. Gerald McMurtry during his apprenticeship at the Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne in the early 1930s.



t the age of six or seven I did what many first- or second-graders do on Lincoln's birthday. I cut out of brown paper a log cabin which would serve as a cover for a very short story about Abe Lincoln. The old yarns about splitting rails and reading before the log fire were incorporated into my first Lincoln essay. My mother saved it for me. I have it labeled in a scrapbook as my first Lincoln manuscript.

Perhaps my earliest contact with Lincoln collecting was the discovery, in my grandfather's desk, of a souvenir program relating to Theodore Roosevelt's visit to the Lincoln birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky, on February 12, 1909. The President had come to Kentucky for the laying of the cornerstone of the memorial building that was designed to preserve the traditional birthplace cabin. My grandparents gave me the program.

Did my maternal grandfather and grandmother attend this dedication? I do not know. They would not have been particularly impressed with Theodore Roosevelt. He was a Republican. My grandfather was a Democrat. Log cabin birth was nothing out of the ordinary—they had lived in a log cabin. My family were all staunch Democrats and pro-Southern. My maternal grandmother, who was born in

1863 and lived until age 94, never once mentioned to me or anyone else the nature of my work as a Lincoln historian. When I was a child growing up in Hardin County, Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln was not considered the revered martyred President that he is today. The old-timers were apt to refer to him as that illegitimate child of the ne'er-do-well Thomas Lincoln. They never forgave him for freeing the slaves and, worst of all, helping to create the Republican party. Perhaps Holman Hamilton best described this attitude nearly three-quarters of a century later when he stated that "Kentucky joined the Confederacy after the Civil War had ended."

I remember Labor Day 1916 very well. I was ten years old, going down to the Illinois Central Railway station to see Woodrow Wilson, who passed through Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on his way to the birthplace farm to accept the Lincoln Memorial on behalf of the United States government. Several years later David Lloyd George, the former English Prime Minister, and his daughter Megan passed through Elizabethtown over the same railroad enroute to the birthplace farm.

I often chided my mother about not taking me to Hodgenville the day Woodrow Wilson visited the birthplace farm. She would have done so if she had realized what my future was to be, as she always encouraged me in my research on the Sixteenth President.

In high school I enjoyed taking history courses—so much so that when I graduated in 1925 the class prophet predicted that I would be a historian and that I would likely be in charge of a museum. However, as a youth growing up in Elizabethtown, I did not even know, until Dr. Louis A. Warren drew his "Map of Elizabethtown—1816," that my boyhood home was on the same lot G where the cabin home of Lincoln's stepmother Sarah Bush Johnston was originally located. Neither did I know about Lot 25, on which stood the Samuel Patton house, where Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston were married. In fact, Lot G is adjacent to Lot 25 as the early town was surveyed by Andrew Hynes in 1793.

Louis A. Warren's map of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

I enrolled in Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, in the fall of 1925, and to help pay my expenses I secured a position during three summer vacations with the Kentucky Highway Department as an axman and rodman. As circumstances would have it, I finally wound up working with a crew surveying a road between Hodgenville and Bardstown. I resided in Hodgenville and lived with a family, the head of which was a brother of the Congressman who had helped secure the funds for the Lincoln Memorial Temple. The brother was a stonemason. His good wife fixed my lunches every day. They always contained, among other things, a thermos bottle of homemade wine.

Surveying is hard work, and we were engaged in rerouting the very same road over which Thomas Lincoln was a supervisor or patroller in 1816. At lunch we would go to a shady nook on Knob Creek to eat and rest. This was very near the site of Lincoln's second cabin home. After lunch we would take a swim in the very stream in which, tradition states, young Lincoln almost drowned.

This part of Kentucky was not unfamiliar to me because I could recall as a small child having visited with my father and mother the relatives of Georgia Ann Crady McMurtry, my paternal grandmother. Her relatives owned land adjacent or nearly so to the Thomas Lincolns' Knob Creek farm. John D. Crady, of Athertonville, Kentucky (likely my grandmother's brother or cousin) once owned Thomas Lincoln's Knob Creek farm.

Upon enrolling at Centre College I learned that Lincoln's first law partner, John Todd Stuart, had graduated from that institution in the fall of 1826, one of forty-one students to complete the liberal arts course from 1824 to 1833. However, at Centre, which was at that time more imbued with the sentiments of the South than the North, I heard very little about Abraham Lincoln. Centre College did provide me with a good basic liberal arts education for which I have always been grateful. I did have considerable trouble with Spanish, and I made a tour of Europe in 1928 with my Spanish professor which I hoped would improve my grade. I have sometimes argued, tongue-in-cheek, that John Todd

Stuart provided Lincoln with the curriculum for a liberal arts education; thereby indirectly Centre had an influence on the intellectual development of Abraham Lincoln.

Graduating in 1929 during the Great Depression, I was unable to find employment. I still had a burning desire to find work in a museum or specialized library. I knew one man who had such a position—Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director of what was then called the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation. He had formerly resided in Elizabethtown and was pastor of my church, the First Christian Church. He taught my Sunday School class. During his residence in Elizabethtown (1920–1923) I knew that he was writing a Lincoln book. I always had great admiration for authors—particularly when they wrote on local topics—and Lincoln in Elizabethtown was a local topic. His book was to be entitled *Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood.* It came off the press in 1926 and I immediately secured a copy. It proved to be a great foundation stone of Lincolniana.

Occasionally while I was unemployed, Dr. Warren would visit my hometown, invite me out to lunch or dinner, and make many inquiries about my interest in the history field, but never once did he mention employment in his library, which was sponsored by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

On September 12, 1930, I received a letter from Dr. Warren relative to my request to receive his weekly bulletin *Lincoln Lore:* "It would certainly be a pleasure for me to forward *Lincoln Lore* each week to your address, which might be of interest to you. . . . I trust you will find occasion to come to Fort Wayne some time and see the wonderful Lincoln Library which we have here."

With little prospect of making any money I whiled away my time searching for Indian relics and collecting antique firearms. This became a very enjoyable hobby. I dug into Indian mounds and explored freshly ploughed fields for arrowheads. With a collector friend I engaged Andy Collins, the brother of the ill-fated Floyd Collins,[1] to guide us through Salts Cave, which is now under the supervision of the Mammoth Cave National Park. We traversed passage-

ways never seen before by white men; we found moccasin footprints still in the sand left by Indians ages ago; we found straw beds which looked as if Indians had just slept in them the night before. We found moccasins that had slipped from the Indians' feet; we found bundles of cattails soaked in grease to be used as torches in the dark caverns.

Then the lightning struck. On January 24, 1932, I received the following telegram: "Would you consider a position in my department. If so could you come to Fort Wayne Thursday, January twenty-eighth for conference. Wire collect. Louis A. Warren."

I went immediately to Fort Wayne, got a room at the local Y.M.C.A., and accepted a starting salary of $100 a month. I found the job to be a great delight. I poked through every drawer, looked at every clipping, leafed through every book, and studied every manuscript. This was just the kind of position I had always wanted.

Shortly before receiving the telegram from Dr. Warren about the position in Fort Wayne, I had spent considerable time with M.L. Houser[2] of Peoria, Illinois. He was interested in the Kentucky Lincoln story and was eager to locate the lot in Elizabethtown on which stood the Thomas Lincoln cabin. I showed him all the historic Lincoln sites, lamenting the fact that so little was known about the Lincolns' Elizabethtown residence, and he returned home. Thereupon he wrote me a letter with a long list of questions, many of which we had already discussed.

I replied that I really could not answer his questionnaire, that I did not know very much about Thomas Lincoln. Too bad, I said, that you are not interested in Indian lore. There is a subject that I really know. Imagine Houser's surprise a few weeks later when he came to Fort Wayne and found me serving as the Librarian of a great Lincoln collection.

I recall my first assignment in January 1932 was to begin cataloging the Helm-Haycraft collection, a miscellaneous accumulation of Kentucky manuscripts, a collection so voluminous and so varied that the job has not been completed to this day.

I realized that if I was to get ahead I should start making Lincoln speeches. I was so eager to begin that I enrolled in a speech class at Indiana University Extension[3] and took private lessons from a local teacher as well. I also saw the need to begin writing articles, and we solicited trade journals to publish what we had to offer. We boasted that we could write a Lincoln article on almost any subject. Life with Lincoln in the 1930s was simpler than it is today.

The most significant historical event that transpired during my first tenure at the Lincoln National Life Foundation was the dedication of the Paul Manship statue of "Abraham Lincoln—The Hoosier Youth" on September 16, 1932. It was the day after this occasion that I became acquainted with Ida M. Tarbell, who was a Lincoln biographer and a critic of the Standard Oil Company. Our lasting acquaintance came about from being trapped in the company's elevator. I offered to meet her after business hours in order that she might spend some time in the Lincoln library. Once we departed from the library quarters aboard the elevator, it stuck halfway down to the first floor. Fortunately the bell was working, and after about twenty minutes a maintenance man heard our signal, came to our rescue, and released us from our predicament.[4]

While Librarian of the Foundation, I met many prominent authors in the Lincoln field, namely, M.L. Houser; Norman Hapgood; Ross Lockridge; Holman Hamilton, who was then writing a two-volume work on Zachary Taylor; Paul M. Angle; Harry E. Pratt; Benjamin P. Thomas; Otto Eisenschiml; Edgar DeWitt Jones; Eleanor Gridley; Dr. W.A. Evans; Thomas I. Starr; and Francis M. Van Natter,[5] to name a few that come to mind. Holman Hamilton spent so much time in the Lincoln Library-Museum working on his biography of Zachary Taylor that many of the employees of the company thought that he was connected with the life insurance business. In truth, he was a staff member of the Fort Wayne *Journal-Gazette* from 1932 to 1942 and from 1947 to 1951. He found the quiet environment of an historical library more conducive to writing than the busy hubbub of a news room.

My first Lincoln pamphlet, published in 1932, was entitled *The Lincolns in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.* Among other things, it reprinted the exchange of letters between Samuel Haycraft, the early historian of Elizabethtown, and Abraham Lincoln. Ironically, in printing the letters, the most significant Lincoln statement from my point of view was accidentally deleted, namely, "I was not born at Elizabethtown; but my mother's first child, a daughter two years older than myself, and now long since deceased, was." Oddly enough, no one has ever called this unfortunate deletion to my attention which may indicate that no one ever read the pamphlet or they did not wish to embarrass me with such a colossal proofreader's blunder.

The most significant event of my life transpired during these early years in Fort Wayne. On December 22, 1934, I was married to Florence Louise Koberly of this city. Immediately I began to think about advancement and a bigger salary. The economy was still depressed, and there was no room in the Lincoln Foundation for two high-salaried employees. Thereupon I resolved to leave for Kentucky to enter the insurance business in which my mother and stepfather were engaged. Allen Steere, who had shared a room with me at the University Club and is now a retired vice president of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, states emphatically that my drastic resolution came about one afternoon in May when he joined me and my wife at our apartment to listen to a radio report of the Kentucky Derby. He said after the band played "My Old Kentucky Home" my mind was made up to leave Indiana.

Once the announcement that I was leaving Fort Wayne was made, I was accorded a significant honor by my good friend Holman Hamilton, in an editorial written for the Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette:*

> *Farewell to a Historian*
>
> It is with real regret to local historians, and to those who are historically minded, that R. Gerald McMurtry —assistant to Dr. Louis A. Warren of the Lincoln National Life Foundation—announces his leaving Fort Wayne.

In his three and one-half years in this city, Mr. McMurtry has become widely-recognized in historical circles for his articles which have appeared in many of the nation's magazines and newspapers.

He has specialized in the life of Lincoln, and has become one of the foremost younger authorities on Lincoln's Kentucky and Indiana periods.

It is as true today as it ever was that Americans cannot hope to understand the America of the future without having a real comprehension of the America of the past.

Men like Gerald McMurtry are giving the rank and file that comprehension. The Lincoln National Life Insurance company is to be congratulated on bringing to Fort Wayne men like Warren and McMurtry who have added so much to its cultural standards and have made a very real contribution in the establishment and development of one of the outstanding Lincoln museums in the country.

August 3, 1935

I did not prove to be a good insurance agent. All my clients wanted to talk about Lincoln or Kentucky history, not insurance. I did find the time to write several articles for insurance magazines on "How to Sell Insurance" or "How to Properly Insure your Antiques." I also found time to write a weekly column in the *Hardin County Enterprise* about the Lincolns or some phase of Elizabethtown or Hardin County history. In 1938 these articles were published in book form by the Enterprise Press and were entitled *A Series of Monographs Concerning the Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky.*

While languishing in the insurance business, I was appointed by Governor Ruby Laffon of Kentucky as a member of the Lincoln Memorial Highway Commission. This was a joint effort on the part of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois to select the Lincolns' migration route from the birthplace to the Illinois capital.

I was placed in charge of all the affidavits and other literature relative to the Lincoln migration from the Knob Creek

farm in Kentucky to the Pigeon Creek farm in Indiana in 1816. I was also given the opportunity to write the final report which the governor was said to have approved a few hours before his term expired.

With so much material on hand I proceeded to write an article for the *Indiana Magazine of History* entitled "The Lincoln Migration from Kentucky to Indiana, 1816."[6] This article was a house-to-house account of the Lincoln migration as the family bade good-bye to their friends, located suitable places to camp, sought relatives to visit, and encountered the hazards of pioneer travel. The work with the Commission and the publication of this magazine article are things of which I am very proud. However, I doubt that such a memorial highway will ever be constructed.

While working in Fort Wayne, I had met Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, president of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee. He was a splendid gentleman, a delightful individual, full of charisma, with a plan to build a collection of Lincolniana at his college. He became a lifelong friend. When I first encountered him in the Library-Museum, I did not know his name, and our discussion turned to Lincoln and the Civil War. As I proceeded to take him through the collection, we took up the matter of the abilities of General George B. McClellan, whom I severely berated. This amused Dr. McClelland, who then introduced himself and explained that he was not a relative of the general.[7] He told me of his dream for the college and how badly he needed me to take on the burden of building the collection. I was flattered but dismissed the whole idea from my mind. However, while residing in my hometown, I would frequently get long distance telephone calls from him. When I was out of reach, my wife would take the calls, and Dr. McClelland would say, "I am going to get your husband for Lincoln Memorial University." He would often suggest that Florence and I meet him at the Lincoln birthplace farm or some other place he happened to be when passing through.

Psychologically this was very pleasing for me, but it was very bad for my morale as an insurance agent. When I went

into the country to solicit insurance business and some farmer's dog bit me, I would think, *"Well, if this racket gets any tougher I can go to Lincoln Memorial University."*

Finally, in 1936 I went with Florence to Harrogate, Tennessee, to see the college. We had never been in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee before, and we both suffered culture shock. The mountain highways were so crooked it was unbelievable, and it seemed that on every front porch a mountaineer was picking a banjo. We stopped for lunch at a restaurant which was filled with mining engineers, coal miners, and volunteer nurses who were serving the mountain people where no doctors were available.

Because of the college budget (although my proposed salary would certainly not have caused a deficit) and other personnel matters, it was decided that I should not come to L.M.U. until the fall of 1937. Florence and I returned home, relieved that we would have a year to get ready for the adjustment.

The depression continued unabated, my insurance sales record was terrible, and by the autumn of 1937 Harrogate looked very good indeed. One insurance company for which I was an agent classified its agency force as follows: the best agent was in an aeroplane, the second man was in a balloon, the third man in a fast car, the fourth man on a motorcycle, the fifth man on a bicycle, the sixth man was walking, and I was in a wheel chair with the gout.

Upon our arrival in Harrogate, there were three of us (our daughter Joyce Ellen was born January 20, 1936). We were lodged in the gatekeeper's house on the college campus, which was at one time a private estate. The rent was about $20 per month, a gallon of milk per day from the University's dairy was $12 a month, and utilities were so low I cannot remember ever having to pay a bill. Everything else we needed was equally reasonable. There certainly was no inflation in 1937.

I had hardly had the opportunity to get adjusted to my surroundings on the college campus during my first week of residence there when I was told to go to Cincinnati,

McMurtry in the Lincoln Room at the Lincoln Memorial University in

Harrogate, Tennessee, in the late 1930s.

Ohio, board the steamboat *Gordon C. Greene,* and accompany the Indiana Sons of the Pioneers to Hanover College. This all came about when a Middlesboro, Kentucky, resident had purchased a ticket and found that he was unable to take the trip. I enjoyed the trip a great deal, and I got to meet some of the editors and staff of the *Indiana Magazine of History,* friendships which proved pleasant and valuable at a later date.

To my surprise I learned that my student secretary for the Lincoln Room was named Ann Rutledge. She was from Ottumwa, Iowa, and was a great-grandniece of the famous Ann Rutledge, who was acquainted with Abraham Lincoln in New Salem, Illinois. She had just completed a role as Ann Rutledge in the Lincoln play entitled, *The Lonely Man,* produced in Chicago, Illinois, in the summer of 1937 by Robert Milton as a Federal Theater Project. She was a very pleasant and beautiful secretary, but she did not remain at the college very long. After leaving L.M.U., she appeared in the role of Ann Rutledge in E.P. Conkle's play *Prologue to Glory.* This too was a Federal Theater Project play. It was produced in New York City, and she played opposite Stephen Courtleigh as young Abe Lincoln of New Salem days. This play was declared to be the best Federal Theater Project production of the 1938 season.

As soon as we were settled in our college home, I got down to work. Much to my surprise I was told that I would have to teach freshman courses in United States and European history. Later on this burden was lifted, and I taught only a full year course on the life of Lincoln, ranging from the Lincoln ancestry in England to the aftermath of his assassination. Eventually I became so busy in public relations work that I did not teach any courses at all.

I enjoyed teaching the Lincoln course. I found that when you tie a course to a central character it is easy to grasp and not difficult to remember. Some of my students became real experts in the details of Lincoln biography. Quite a few people audited the course. Ann Samonial, the future Mrs. Stewart W. McClelland (now Mrs. Noble Ropkey), enrolled in the course for credit.

One might wonder what textbooks were used. It so happened that Dr. Louis A. Warren's book, *Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood* (which I have heard is now selling at $100 per copy in rare book stores), and Albert Shaw's two-volume work, *Abraham Lincoln: His Path to the Presidency* and *Abraham Lincoln: The Year of His Election,* were being remaindered at a very low price. These were obtained in quantities for the enrolled students. Of course, other books were likewise obtained in the same manner. This was largely a lecture course, and it was difficult to make study assignments except through the library.

My Lincoln students had very receptive attitudes toward Lincoln—there was no North-South antagonism because they were largely from that area of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia that had been pro-Union during the Civil War. In fact, some of them became Lincoln collectors and had sizeable Lincoln libraries by the time they graduated.

When the college was founded in 1897, the trustees had hoped that, along with the establishment of the institution, there could be the creation of a Lincoln library and museum to emphasize the character of the college. In a sense, they wanted the college to become a memorial to the Sixteenth President.

The growth of the educational institution was slow and that of the Lincoln library and museum even slower. However, though handicapped by the lack of funds, the college accumulated a rich storehouse of Lincoln material through the years, until today it has become one of the major collections in America. This achievement has come about through the kindness and benefaction of friends who have contributed rare and valuable items over the eighty-three year period.

In the beginning it was fortunate that Dr. John Wesley Hill, chancellor of the University from 1916 to 1936, enlisted the support of Thomas F. Madigan, an autograph dealer in New York City. Together they secured a splendid nucleus of manuscript material for the Lincoln exhibit which was then displayed in the Duke Hall of Citizenship, a building erected on the campus in 1928.

Even with this beginning the prospects for continued growth were not encouraging because the University was unable to purchase valuable items that appeared for sale from time to time. Perhaps the most inviting offer the University ever entertained was the opportunity to purchase the famous Oldroyd collection, which could have been procured in 1921 for $50,000 on an easy payment plan.[8] The offer had to be declined, in spite of the fact that the University held an option on the collection for a short period.

With the death of Dr. Hill in 1936, Dr. McClelland took the responsibility of enlarging the program. I had my work cut out for me. With a student staff I had to set into effect the machinery of the project.

The results achieved by the new department were fantastic. The items that were acquired as gifts consisted of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, pictures, etchings, oil paintings, photographs, sculpture, medals, furniture, relics, and other miscellaneous material. Within a short time the number of Lincoln books had doubled and tripled, and the collection, with its primary source material, took on the character of a research library which professional and graduate students came to consult.

Gifts continued to be received during the administration of Dr. Robert L. Kincaid, who, like Dr. McClelland, was a bibliophile and historian. Of course, valuable gifts have also been acquired by later administrations and the present administration of the college. Donors have ranged all the way from the Union Central Life Insurance Company to Dorothy Lamon Teillard, the daughter of Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln's close friend whom he appointed U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia.

The most generous donor was Carl W. Schaefer, an attorney in Cleveland, Ohio, who served a number of years on the college Board of Trustees. He instructed me to go to New York City, to visit the Argosy Book Store, to go through their entire stock, and to pick out every Lincoln and collateral item I wanted for the L.M.U. collection. What fun! Not only did I find books, brochures, and pamphlets, but also steel engravings, lithographs, and many other miscellane-

ous items. I was not to worry about price. Mr. Schaefer's own Cleveland book dealer would go to New York City and haggle with the Argosy people about price. This was the largest single acquisition made during my tenure at the college.

The thrill was so great that Mr. Schaefer allowed me to go to New York City again, after the Argosy Book Store had acquired a new stock of Lincolniana and Civil War items. After about three days I made my selection. There was a voluminous amount of material. The donor had attempted to alert the Argosy Book Shop that his Cleveland book dealer would soon arrive to discuss the price of the collection. Unfortunately, the Argosy people shipped the collection to Harrogate immediately and sent the donor a fantastic itemized bill of sale. I received orders from the angry donor in Cleveland to return the entire collection unopened—which I reluctantly did. This represented my greatest loss as a Lincoln collector. To this day I still recall items in that collection that I have never seen since.

Mr. Schaefer was a fine personal friend of mine as well as of my family. At this juncture of my career my family had increased to three. My son Stephen was born May 5, 1938, and my daughter Susan was born May 8, 1941. Mr. Schaefer would often purchase a very rare Lincoln book, bring it to Harrogate, and demand that I become ecstatic about it before he would let me accept it for the library. On one occasion when he presented me with an extra-illustrated Boyd *Bibliography*[9] beautifully bound in full leather, he inquired, "If you held this book in one hand and Susan in the other and had to drop one, which one would you drop?" Usually I am nonplused when confronted with difficult questions, but I replied, "The Andrew Boyd book is a first edition—after all Susan is a third edition." This reply was sufficient to get the book into my possession.

On another occasion after an extended trip east, and then west to Cleveland, when I was physically exhausted, Mr. Schaefer handed me an Oakleaf *Bibliography.*[10] I replied, "Oh, an Oakleaf." He took the book back and would not let me have it for several months.

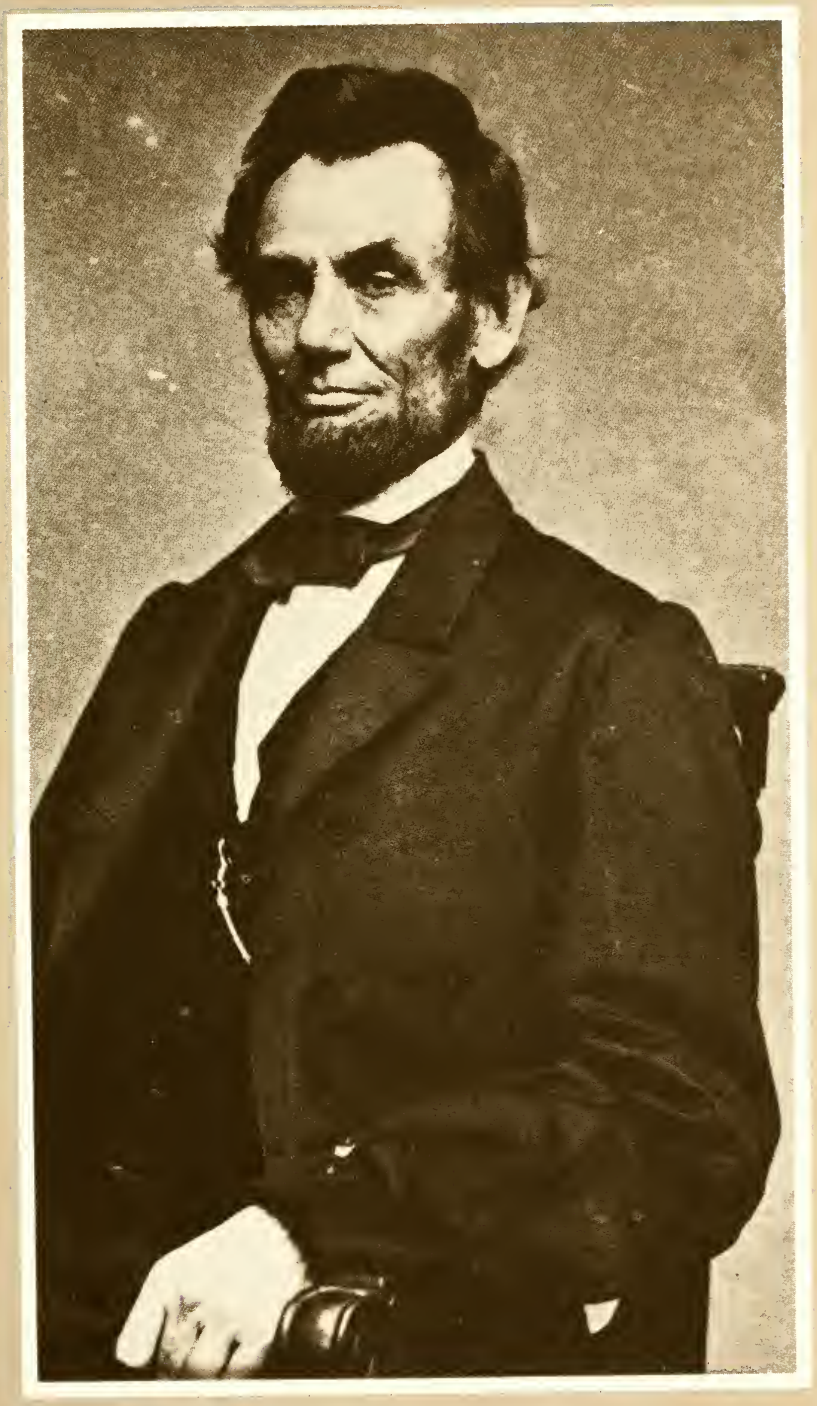
The most consistent and generous donors were members of the Board of Trustees. Others besides Carl W. Schaefer were Foreman M. Lebold, Newton C. Farr, Raymond S. Wilkins, David H. Annan, Ralph G. Newman, Stanley H. Byram, Lester O. Schriver, Beverly W. Howe, Katharine Mathies, and E. Channing Coolidge, to name those that immediately come to mind. Of course, too, mention should be made of Stewart W. McClelland and Robert L. Kincaid, who consistently made significant gifts to the collection.

Ralph G. Newman, a proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop and one of the nation's leading appraisers of historic manuscripts, was an important factor in our collecting activities. Knowledgeable as he has always been about historic material, he knew our needs and he did not hesitate to find a donor to make a relic, book, or manuscript available when it came on the market for sale. His activities in this capacity resulted in many fine contributions for the Lincoln library and museum.

Other donors, whose gifts were sizeable and extremely valuable, were Frederick H. Meserve, Jesse Jay Ricks (whose collection was acquired from Oliver R. Barrett), Dr. Max Thorek, Dr. Carl A. Meyer, and dozens of others.

Undoubtedly the finest material in the collection consists of manuscripts, and among those penned by Lincoln are some of the major letters that he wrote during his political campaigns and while serving in the office of President. The archives of the collection consist of several divisions as follows: 1. The Lincoln Memorial University collection, 2. Cassius M. Clay collection, 3. John L. Worden papers, and 4. Lincoln Migration papers (1816), which I deposited there after filing the report of the Lincoln Memorial Highway Commission.

Practically every item in the L.M.U. collection recalls to my memory when, how, and under what circumstances it was obtained. For example, I vividly recall writing to the Japanese ambassador a week before Pearl Harbor requesting a mimeographed copy of his Lincoln address. The letter and envelope were returned indicating that my request had undergone the closest scrutiny by the United States



government Secret Service agents and the official censors. Years later a copy of the address was finally obtained from a different source.

Another cloak and dagger story relates to Lincoln Memorial University's copy of Emil Ludwig's *Lincoln* in the original German edition, a book later ordered burned by Adolf Hitler. The book, although just a regular edition, is a beautiful example of the bookmaker's art. A firm named B. Westerman and Company in New York City offered for sale books in foreign languages. I wrote them that we were a struggling college trying to build a Lincoln collection with no funds. However, we would like to obtain a copy of Ludwig's *Lincoln*. They replied that they were delighted to send our library a free copy of Ludwig's book. Shortly after the book arrived, the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized the book store and declared it be a Nazi spy nest.

While the task of collecting Lincolniana in the period beginning with the year 1937 was a difficult one, the college was fortunate that it started collecting as early as it did, even though handicapped by limited funds. This was still the depression period and book catalogue prices were unbelievably low. It was not unusual for the alert bibliophile to find a "sleeper." Today the building of an inclusive institutional Lincoln collection would be almost an impossible undertaking.

In retrospect it is not difficult to understand how our project proved so successful. We had administration approval, both from the college officials and the Board of Trustees, and we had a host of enthusiastic donors. Furthermore, the quality of the material they contributed was superb. Perhaps few Lincoln collections in the country contain so many fine gems. Some of Lincoln's best letters and documents, many of the rarest publications, the largest accumulation of Lincoln and Union sheet music (fifth largest Confederate sheet music collection), the most exquisite and desirable types of personal relics, and outstanding examples of sculpture and oil paintings by recognized artists make up this great regional collection of material about the Sixteenth President.

A few specific examples of the rarities in the Lincoln Memorial University collection are worthy of mention: L.M.U. owns a Congressional vote of thanks inscribed on parchment to Lieutenant J.L. Worden of the United States Navy and to the officers and men under his command in the gunboat *Monitor* for their skill and gallantry in the late remarkable battle between the *Monitor* and the rebel ironclad steamer *Merrimack*. This resolution was signed by Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Dan C. Clark, President pro tem of the Senate; and Abraham Lincoln. The resolution was approved July 11, 1862.

A relic of great value is the gold pocket watch presented by Abraham Lincoln to his friend, Ward Hill Lamon, on January 6, 1863. After receiving the gift, Lamon, while abroad, had Lincoln's portrait engraved on the inside cover of the watch. The gold chain accompanying the watch was made from gold nuggets sent to Lamon by his cousin from the California gold fields. The watch was presented to the college by Dorothy Lamon Teillard.[11] Another relic is a crescent-shaped badge worn by Lamon as a United States Marshal of the District of Columbia.

The duties of the Director of the Department of Lincolniana, which was my title, were not all teaching and collecting. I did a great deal of traveling and talking before Lincoln groups, Civil War Round Tables, and other clubs interested in my topics. It was also my pleasure to go with members of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on tours of Civil War battlefields. One of the most interesting battlefield trips that I ever made was my attendance at the 75th Gettysburg Battlefield reunion in 1938, when both Union and Confederate veterans bivouaced together, that is, separated only by a dividing line. This gave me the opportunity to talk with many old soldiers who had known or seen Abraham Lincoln. I made the trip with Dr. Robert L. Kincaid, then the vice-president of the college, and I recall that the crowd attending this reunion was so large that the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, actually ran short of food. The veterans, however, had their own kitchens and an ample supply of food.

The college conducted a Lincoln tour from the Cumberland Gap to Springfield, Illinois. Frederick Hill Meserve was the honored guest. I was charged with arranging the itinerary and making reservations for overnight accommodations and for meals. We usually had about twenty-five or thirty in our group traveling in automobiles. Some went a part of the way and others joined the party near the end of the trip. However, a sizeable group made the entire journey, and this proved the making of lifelong friendships and staunch supporters for the college. Among those who made the entire three-day journey were Dr. F. Lauriston Bullard; Frederick H. Meserve; Ralph G. Newman; Harry E. Pratt; Carl W. Schaefer; Lawrence B. Lockwood, Schaefer's friend and the official photographer for the group; Lester O. Schriver; David J. Harkness; Anthony Maresh; William D. Bosler; Stewart W. McClelland; and Robert L. Kincaid.[12] Many of these men were accompanied by their wives. One other traveler who went the entire distance was Isaac R. Diller, the only person still living in 1940 who had been photographed with Abraham Lincoln. As a child, Diller had received an invitation to attend one of Willie Lincoln's birthday parties. He had appeared in a photograph of Lincoln, taken in front of his Springfield home by J.A. Whipple of Boston, Massachusetts, during the campaign of 1860. Diller was an elderly gentleman but very spry, and whenever any photographs were taken he always appeared in the picture. It got to be a joke among the group and each photograph was referred to as "all this and Diller too." When the party arrived in Springfield he invited everyone to his beautiful home, and the members of the party were very pleased that he made the trip.

My wife always remembers one phase of the trip—the dark night we spent what seemed to be several hours in a graveyard (Rosemond Grove Cemetery near Pana, Illinois) while Harry Pratt and Dr. Bullard searched for Charles J. Mulligan's statue of Abraham Lincoln. I could not have been in more distinguished company. Dr. Bullard in addition to being a very handsome and cultured gentleman with a white goatee was a Pulitzer prize-winning editorial

writer for the Boston *Herald*. He had written and would write some of the most scholarly monographs to augment the great body of Lincoln literature. On the other hand, Dr. Harry E. Pratt probably excelled all the authorities, living or dead, as to the minute details of Lincoln's life. He was the expert of the experts and besides that one of the best friends that any man would ever hope to encounter in the fascinating search for the elusive Lincoln.

In 1939 Lincoln Memorial University privately published, with funds provided by Lester O. Schriver, a little forty-one page brochure of mine entitled *Let's Talk of Lincoln—of his Life, of his Career, of his Deeds, of his Immortality*. Earl Hobson Smith, the Speech and Dramatics teacher and a successful playwright, helped me fashion the sentences in such a way as to achieve rhythm and balance. It was favorably received by most readers. However, a reviewer for the *Bulletin of the Abraham Lincoln Association*[13] was critical of my effort, not taking into consideration my use of poetic license. Perhaps I did merit criticism for devoting one whole page to Ann Rutledge but only two lines to Lincoln's career as a lawyer. On one occasion when I was introduced to an Illinois audience the chairman of the meeting said that I was the man that wrote the life of Lincoln in forty damn pages.

While I was at Lincoln Memorial University, I had the opportunity to meet many prominent authors, historians, and collectors in the Lincoln field. Some of them were F. Lauriston Bullard, Kenneth A. Bernard, William H. Townsend, Jay Monaghan, Jonathan T. Dorris, Allan Nevins, Oliver R. Barrett, Carl Sandburg, Bruce Catton, Bert Sheldon, Bernhardt Wall, Bess V. Ehrmann, Frederick Hill Meserve, Earl Hobson Smith, Ralph G. Newman, Roy P. Basler, Ernest Wessen, George Fort Milton, Lloyd Lewis, Clyde Walton, T. Harry Williams, Reinhard H. Luthin, Rufus Rockwell Wilson, David C. Mearns, Percy Powell, E.B. "Pete" Long, J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Irving Stone, Thomas I. Clark, and James G. Randall.[14] I wish I could think of them all.

I recall very well the visit of Carl Sandburg to the campus of Lincoln Memorial University. He spoke (without benefit

of honorarium) before a large audience. He presented a weird portrayal of forensic art. On a darkened stage, with his shock of white hair, he swayed back and forth, and he told of the Southern couple who presented their infant child to General Robert E. Lee with the remark that he was to be named after the general. Sandburg reiterated over and over again the admonition of General Lee: "Teach him to deny himself."

I had just published in 1940 a pamphlet entitled *The Lincoln Log Cabin Almanac* containing "Divers and Sundry Information About Abraham Lincoln—With Very Little Scientific Data Concerning the Weather, the Constellations and the Firmament." I was thrilled when Sandburg told me he liked my AL-MA-NACK. This was my first meeting with the poet. On several future occasions I was fortunate to be in his company.

In 1943 the Chicago Civil War Round Table published my little book entitled *Ben Hardin Helm "Rebel" Brother-in-Law of Abraham Lincoln—With a Biographical Sketch of His Wife and an Account of the Todd Family of Kentucky.* It was beautifully printed by the Kingsport Press and limited to 225 numbered and signed copies. In writing this book I was greatly assisted by some members of the Round Table who were sticklers for minute and accurate details regarding military actions. My good friend William H. Townsend was of great help in that he owned the famous plantation home called Helm Place near Lexington, Kentucky, and introduced me to two of Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm's children (who were then quite elderly), Ben Hardin Helm, Jr., and Elodie Helm Lewis. They were the brother and sister of Katherine Helm, the author of *The True Story of Mary, Wife of Lincoln,* published by Harper and Brothers in 1928. Katherine Helm was also an accomplished artist and painted several oil portraits of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. She was deceased at the time I became acquainted with her brother and sister. Meeting these people in a kind of "Gone With the Wind" setting has always been one of my cherished memories.

One of the big events at the University was the premiere of the R.K.O. film *Abe Lincoln in Illinois,* modeled after Rob-

ert E. Sherwood's Broadway play which had won the Pulitzer Prize and had enjoyed such a successful run in New York City. The governors of the states of Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee had accepted invitations to attend. The actress, Mary Howard, who played the role of Ann Rutledge, came along with a Mr. Goetz, the producer of the film. For a period of several weeks an advance publicity agent had been on the campus. All expected a gala night on January 17, 1940. Then a severe winter storm came—the worst snow and the coldest weather in twenty years. Even so, a fairly large crowd assembled. Among the notables expected, however, only the governor of Tennessee was able to get there. Raymond Massey, the real star of the play and film, did not plan to come because he had already visited the campus for commencement on June 5, 1939, when former President Herbert Hoover was the principal guest. The film was enjoyed. The L.M.U. premiere got good press and all were happy.

The R.K.O. producers of *Abe Lincoln in Illinois* had made a serious and determined effort to film a definitive portrait of Abraham Lincoln through the genius of Sherwood, the playwright, and the talent of Massey, the actor. However they must have been distressed and chagrined to have a "quickie" entitled *Young Mr. Lincoln,* produced by Darryl F. Zanuck's 20th Century-Fox and starring Henry Fonda as Lincoln, beat them to the market with a film that was excellent, dramatically speaking, if not historically accurate. For sheer entertainment Fonda was the best. For the mature Lincoln student Massey best depicted the true Abraham Lincoln.

By 1944 I had a fourth addition to my family; Linda Hoke was born November 16th. I needed a larger house. So in 1945 I proceeded to build an eleven-room house on my own lot across from the L.M.U. campus. Building material and labor were cheap in the years immediately following World War II. I employed an architect and had a builder estimate the materials I would need for construction. I hired my own carpenters, and with the aid of the superintendent of the L.M.U. maintenance crew construction

began. The house was huge. People said I was trying to reconstruct the Four Seasons Hotel, built by an English company in the 1890s. It once stood on the L.M.U. campus and had 700 rooms. They also said that with six bedrooms I would not be content until they were all filled. Their prophecy came true. My fifth child, Jan Leslie, was born August 28, 1953.

During the period of World War II, I often visited the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, and I became very well acquainted with Ralph G. Newman, the long-time proprietor, and his partner at the time, John Valentine. This was a period when it was difficult to obtain rail transportation and almost impossible to secure a hotel room. The upshot was that on several different occasions I spent the night in the book shop.

On one occasion when Ralph was away from the shop, John Valentine in a generous mood offered to sell me a rare English juvenile book entitled, *Honest Abe and Brother Jim The Two Martyred Presidents of the United States: A Book for Bigger Boys* by Rev. Joshua Haigh, published in London in 1893. The flyleaf was autographed, "with J. Haigh's kind regards, July 28, 1893." We haggled good naturedly about the price and Valentine finally agreed, without Ralph's knowledge, that he would sell the book to Lincoln Memorial University for the current rate of a crate of strawberries. I immediately accepted the offer, and the book sold for about $8.35 (the cost of a crate of strawberries in Tennessee). It was purchased for the college by Carl W. Schaefer. Once Ralph heard about our deal, he sent me the following message, "we love you (L.M.U.) so we will not renege on John's sale," or words to that effect. This 95-page book, beautifully bound and printed, does not appear in any Lincoln bibliography and is likely the only one extant in this country.

In 1945 and 1946 I spent a great deal of time trying to write a novel. It was my plan to call it *Love Along the Sangamon*, the story of a romance between Abraham Lincoln and Mary Owens. I felt it to be a strange paradox that biographers had devoted so many columns of print to the story

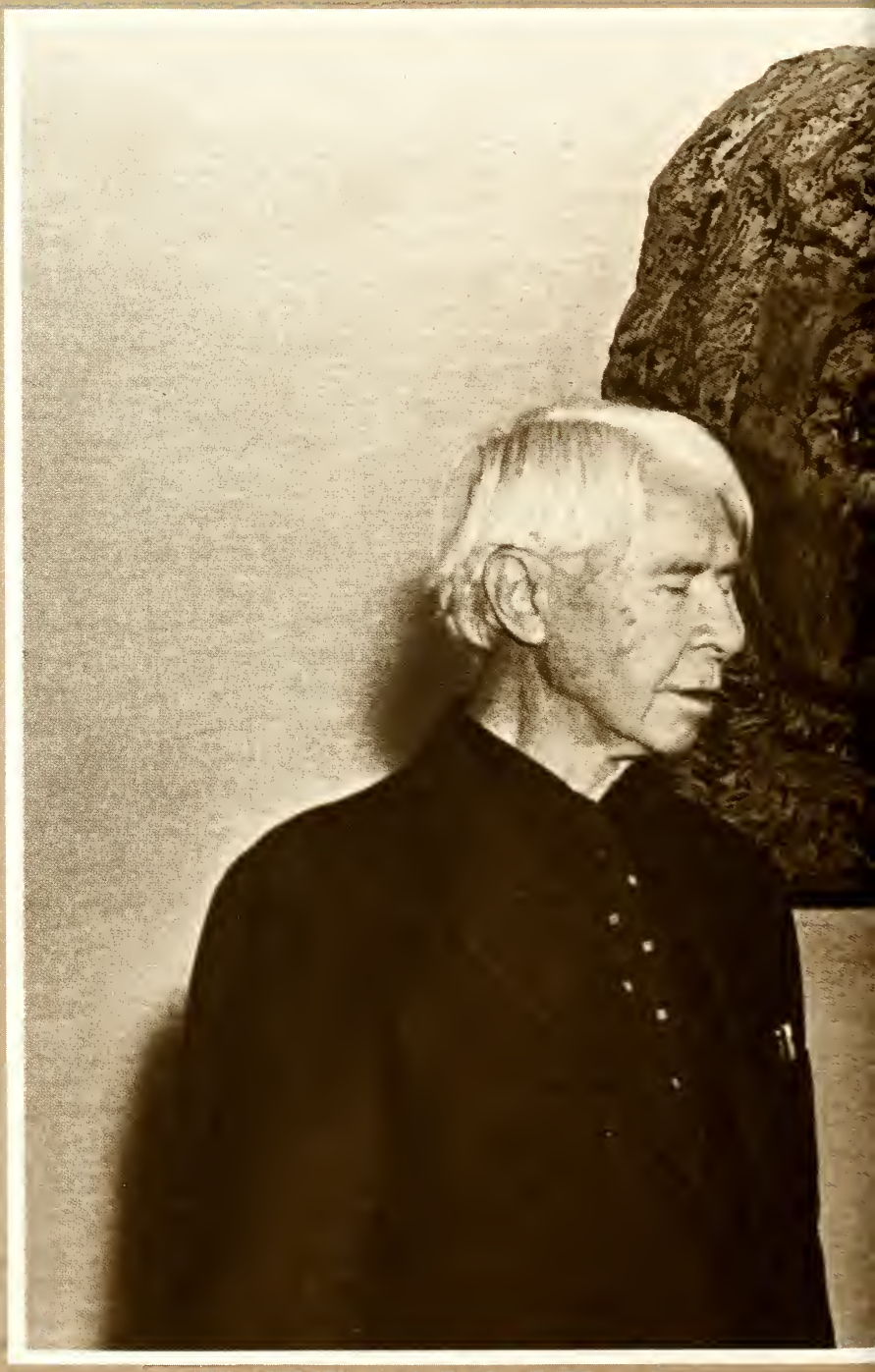
of Ann Rutledge, about whom we know almost nothing, and seldom gave more than passing mention to Mary Owens and her romance with Lincoln, of which we have an abundance of reliable evidence.

I felt that too often sentimentalists had relegated Mary Owens to oblivion. Too often they had referred to her as merely "fashionable, educated, and born of wealth." Consequently I undertook a major research project to find out everything I could about the Owens family of Green County, Kentucky. There was ample information about her aristocratic father, Nathaniel Owens. I learned something of Mary's convent education; I uncovered facts relative to her life in Kentucky, her dreams, her ambitions, her Protestant religion, and what she expected from a husband.

Once I began to write my novel, the dialogue between the characters, especially between Lincoln and Mary, was the most stilted and stupefying effort ever to be put on paper. My best friends read my novel and shook their heads in disbelief. My good friend Otto Eisenschiml suggested that I put my manuscript aside for a long period and take a rest. Ralph Newman had the best idea. He knew a woman novelist who could take my research material and do wonders with it. Her name was Olive Carruthers. She was a chain-smoking, gravel-voiced time bomb. She did her best work under pressure. Her greatest stimulus was not newly discovered historical facts but a deadline. I was tremendously pleased with her work.

She took my voluminous notes, some of which I had made when I visited the Nathaniel Owens home in Green County, and very soon she had ready for the publishers a manuscript entitled *Lincoln's Other Mary.* I was to write an appendix to her novel, a task that I was well prepared to do. Ziff-Davis, a Chicago-New York publishing firm, agreed to take it, and without much delay it was released in time for an extended review in the July 8, 1946, issue of *Time* magazine.

The *Time* reviewer really had fun criticizing this book. He said that Miss Carruthers had whipped up "a mess of taffy prose." He made disparaging comments relative to Mary



Carl Sandburg and Gerald McMurtry in the Lincoln Library and Museum.

Owens. He wrote that Lincoln, according to the novelist, "appeared to have begun the affair at a full rolling boil," and he provided his reader with a brief synopsis of the romance. His comments relative to Miss Carruthers were entirely undeserved. The reviewer did say, "Luckily for the reader who wants to know what really happened, historian R. Gerald McMurtry . . . retells the unadorned facts in an appendix which is almost as long (38 pages) and far better than Olive Carruthers' novel."

The book sold fairly well and made a little money for the authors. However, it would have enjoyed a larger sale if the publisher had anticipated the excellent publicity that it was to receive. There were two or three printings after the initial run, but many disappointed buyers who inquired for a copy at their book stores the first time never went back for a copy the second time.

The whole experience for both Miss Carruthers and me was a pleasant one. She did not mind the adverse comments. I decided never again to attempt a novel.

One of the big events of my career while serving as the Director of the Lincoln Memorial Univesity's collection of Lincolniana was the opening of the Robert Todd Lincoln papers in the Library of Congress at midnight, July 25–26, 1947. I was one of many invited to a dinner given by Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress, who desired to entertain the Lincoln devotees who had come to Washington, D.C., for the opening. The private papers of Abraham Lincoln had been deeded to Congress by the President's eldest son with the stipulation that they were not to be opened to the public until twenty-one years after his death. The dinner was a delightful occasion, and nearly every Lincoln scholar in America either attended the dinner or was present to watch the proceedings and to listen to the talks.

At the stroke of twelve there was a mad scramble to examine the 194 volumes of papers, containing 18,350 items. Some scholars such as Carl Sandburg, James G. Randall, and Paul M. Angle had been commissioned by metropolitan newspapers to cover the event and to report any startling discoveries.

I recall going through a volume at random and discovering some correspondence that had been brought to President Lincoln's attention relative to the importance of Tazewell, Tennessee, in connection with some military action in that vicinity. This I thought was rather surprising to stumble upon, in that the seat of the county of Tennessee where I resided was Tazewell.

For weeks prior to the opening of the papers, the public was led to believe that startling revelations would be forthcoming, such as proof of Lincoln's so-called love of Ann Rutledge, charges of corruption that would be leveled against Lincoln's first Secretary of War Simon Cameron, and perhaps even evidence of the complicity of Lincoln's second Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton in the President's assassination. The collection contained nothing startling. It was a scholar's delight. The papers would bridge some historical gaps, even out some ragged edges of research, explain some of Lincoln's undiscovered correspondence, but nevertheless they were a great letdown for the general public.

The next day a large public meeting was held at the Library of Congress where many prominent Lincoln authorities were presented, and attention was particularly directed to Robert Lincoln Beckwith, the great-grandson of Abraham Lincoln.

Another important event in my career was my attendance at the sale of the Lincoln collection of Oliver R. Barrett by the Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., of New York City. Not only was this an opportunity to see a great collection of historic material, but at the same time it was good for me to renew old friendships and to make new friends among the Lincoln fraternity. These contacts undoubtedly did lead to several gifts for the Harrogate collection after the purchasers had the pleasure of owning them for awhile. One very important Lincoln letter addressed to General Don Carlos Buell and dated January 6, 1862, was acquired about this time. It has great significance for the University because of its mention of Cumberland Gap, which is located something less than two miles from the college campus. Among

other things, Lincoln wrote, "... I would rather have a point on the Railroad south of Cumberland Gap, than Nashville." Certainly I would always be grateful to Ralph G. Newman and Newton C. Farr for their help in securing this letter for the collection.

Since coming to the college, I had published several books and pamphlets and had devoted a considerable amount of my time as associate editor, and finally editor-in-chief, of the quarterly magazine *Lincoln Herald.* I found this work very gratifying. In fact, even though I had heard rumors that Dr. Louis A. Warren was about to retire as Director of the Lincoln Library and Museum and that the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company was looking for a man to replace him, I did not apply for the position. I was too happy in my Tennessee Camelot. I had my new home with a rail fence around it, and my working conditions were ideal. I did note, however, that there was a bit of anxiety on the part of the board members about the decline of the student body and the fact that the college was operating in the red.

Perhaps I had also heard that the insurance company would cease to sponsor the Lincoln Library and Museum following Dr. Warren's retirement. It appeared to the Lincoln fraternity that all the Lincoln students who were capable of following in his footsteps were either too young, too old, too rich, or too well situated in their present positions to succeed him.

Again the Fort Wayne lightning struck. I received a long distance telephone call from Ronald Stagg, a vice-president of the life insurance company, inviting me to come to Fort Wayne for a conference. I later found that my good friend and mentor Dr. Warren and my University Club roommate Allen Steere were thinking of me as a replacement for Dr. Warren, who was about to retire at the age of 72.

The all-expense-paid trip to Fort Wayne was pleasant. I talked with several of the executive officers, but no offers were made, no proposals were forthcoming, and I returned home. Again another call came through for a second conference, and this time I agreed to become the Director of

the Lincoln National Life Foundation, as the Lincoln Library and Museum was officially named, on June 1, 1956.

Following a news release of Dr. Warren's retirement and my acceptance of the Directorship, the Fort Wayne *Journal-Gazette,* in its issue of June 13, 1956, carried the following editorial:

OUTSTANDING LINCOLN SCHOLARS

Fort Wayne is proud of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

It houses more than 190,000 items pertaining to Abraham Lincoln and his life.

This includes more than 14,500 books, 8,700 of them dealing exclusively with Lincoln.

It is believed to be the greatest collection of data ever assembled about one man, with the exception of Bible characters.

The Foundation is known all over the nation and around the world.

It was, therefore, with more than usual interest that the public read of the retirement on July 1 of Dr. Louis A. Warren as director of the Foundation, the post he has held since its inception. Under his devoted care the Foundation has grown to its present proportions.

Dr. Warren has been named director emeritus, President Walter O. Menge of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company announced. Dr. Warren's energy, his outstanding scholarship, his love of Lincoln guarantee that his contribution to the field in which he has made his reputation will long continue.

If Dr. Warren was the ideal man to bring the Foundation its present growth and prestige, Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, his successor, is the ideal man to carry on the work and the tradition.

Although Dr. McMurtry comes now from the Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn., where he was director of the Department of Lincolniana, professor of history and administrative secretary, he is in a sense coming home.

Dr. McMurtry, after his graduation from college, became librarian for the Lincoln National Life Founda-

tion, working with Dr. Warren until 1935. He is well known in the city and familiar with the institution which he will direct. He has an outstanding reputation in his chosen field.

Lives devoted to the study, the preservation, and the dissemination of knowledge about a man of the stature of Abraham Lincoln command admiration and respect.

We extend congratulations to Dr. Warren and Dr. McMurtry and the foundation which has made the name of Fort Wayne known wherever scholars are interested in Abraham Lincoln.

Another quick trip to Fort Wayne to purchase a house was made in the early spring of 1956. My employer, through its mortgage loan department, was to locate for me several four-bedroom homes for sale. Upon my arrival to see these homes, the manager of the department informed me that he had forgotten all about the promise. However, he would call one agent who had informed him that four-bedroom homes were quite scarce. He did, however, have one. That real estate agent was Clayton Briggs, a former employee of the insurance company and an old friend. In fact, we had both taken part in a company minstrel show designed to entertain the agents when they gathered in Fort Wayne for their 30th Anniversary homecoming on June 24, 1935. Arthur F. Hall, the president, had acted as interlocutor along with six other so-called endmen. I was just a member of the singing chorus; Clayton Briggs was "Mushmouth"; Allen Steere was "Eight Ball."

Clayton Briggs showed me the one and only house with four bedrooms he had listed for sale. It was located at 910 W. Rudisill Boulevard. My wife and I fell in love with it and agreed to purchase it within thirty minutes after seeing it. However, I vividly recall that, when I returned to Tennessee, about all that I could remember about the interior was the owner's furniture.

After the L.M.U. Commencement in early June 1956, I left my family in Harrogate to be joined by them in Fort Wayne on July 1st. This time I roomed for one month at the home of my good friends Dr. and Mrs. Louis A. Warren. I was so

imbued with the subject of Lincoln that it did not take me long to get settled and to assume, with some degree of competence, the duties of Director.

The move back to Fort Wayne was just as traumatic for my family as the move to Tennessee had been. During the nineteen years we had lived in that wonderful state, new roads had been built, the people generally became more prosperous, fine schools were erected, and the college had made rapid strides. In other words, East Tennessee had caught up with the rest of the country. Then, too, the campus had been a delightful place to raise our family, and we regretted leaving our fine home and the many good friends that we had made in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia.

However, it was necessary for me to begin thinking about my lecture tour, a task I was to assume for a period of from a month to five weeks every year around the Lincoln birthday month of February. The General Agent in each city that I visited was to book me in advance for a series of Lincoln speeches. My first rebuff this first time on tour occurred in a Texas city. When I arrived the General Agent was out of town, no engagements had been made for me, and no one was designated to assist me upon my arrival. When I presented myself at the office, a secretary called the superintendent of the city schools and suggested that I be booked for some speeches. This was done without delay, and I was given a list of schools to visit. My mode of transportation was to be taxis. Upon my arrival at the first school the principal received me very coldly and told me that "if you hold the students' attention, you will be the first one." The speech was not such an ordeal after all—I discussed Lincoln's assassination, which always seems to have a degree of fascination for all types of audiences.

During the entire period of my career as a Lincoln lecturer I fear that I failed miserably when it came to speaking before children in the primary grades of school. I recall on one occasion when I tried to make my lecture as simple as possible a teacher approached me at the conclusion of my talk and told me that I used forty-seven words that my

listeners had never heard before. On another occasion I tried to remedy this problem by making a few introductory remarks to be followed by a question and answer session. In my introductory remarks I had mentioned that after Lincoln's father came of age he was never without at least one horse. So one very bright little boy asked me the color of Tom Lincoln's horse.

Eventually I got to be an old hand at lecture tours, and during my seventeen-year tenure as Director I visited all the states in the United States except Idaho and Utah for this purpose. While I did not lecture in Alaska, I stopped there enroute to the Far East to engage in a lecture tour.

During my winter speaking tours I often appeared on radio and television programs. On two different occasions I made an appearance on Arthur Godfrey's CBS radio show. The first appearance, with comedian Phil Foster present, was taped on February 6, 1963, and the second appearance was taped in New York City on January 29, 1968.

When the home office learned that I was to appear on the Arthur Godfrey show for the first time, an executive officer of the insurance company expressed doubt that such an appearance would have any publicity value—he believed that the name of the company would not be mentioned and if so only one time. However, a funny thing happened. Phil Foster could not understand why an insurance company named Lincoln would be located in Fort Wayne —why not Springfield, Illinois? He repeated this question time and time again, and I am sure that all the listeners were aware when the broadcast was concluded that my company, the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, was located in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Another interesting radio interview was broadcast in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 18, 1963, by WNAC, when I discussed the life and career of Abraham Lincoln with comedienne Phyllis Diller. She was quite knowledgeable concerning the subject and was then a collector of Lincolniana. The radio station had planned for Miss Diller to have the first fifteen minutes and I was to have the second fifteen minutes. She was late so they had to let me take

over until she arrived. She was wearing a feather wig and corrective shoes. She had some difficulty in walking and remarked when she arrived that she was late because she was accosted by an old man on the way to the radio station. She said, "He would have caught me if his wheelchair hadn't broken down." In January 1968 I appeared on the "Mike Douglas Show" with Shelley Berman. My discussion largely revolved around Lincoln's assassination, and I was occasionally questioned not only by Mike Douglas but by Shelley Berman. Before we went on tape, it was amusing to watch Shelley Berman memorize Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, which he flawlessly recited once the interview got underway.

I had another brush with celebrities of the theater in 1961, when I visited New Orleans for a series of speeches and television appearances. The General Agent was fearful of his abilities as a booking agent, and he employed a public relations expert to secure engagements for me. One in particular that I remember was an invitation to stand in a receiving line at a reception for Imogene Coca and Edward Everett Horton, who were appearing in that city in the popular play *Once Upon a Mattress.* They were very agreeable and asked me a lot of questions about Abraham Lincoln, but they must have wondered why I was in such strange company.

When out on a lecture tour I was often booked by radio stations to make a few introductory remarks about Lincoln and then answer all questions that might be phoned in to the station. This is a nerve-wracking undertaking, especially when you deal with the racial problem. Once when I was in Boston, Massachusetts, a black man phoned me and asked me to pronounce the word "Negro." First I should say that I am in full sympathy with the blacks in their insistance upon a correct pronunciation of the word. Consequently I made a supreme effort to pronounce "Negro" correctly. He next said, "You live in Indiana but where are you originally from?" I replied, "Kentucky." His comment was, "I thought so." On the radio circuit I had to be constantly alert to cope with a sometimes belligerent audience.

I encountered many interesting experiences while on my lecture tours. I recall two or three incidents above all the rest. Once, while staying at the Parker House in Boston, I had checked out of the hotel, and I was waiting with about thirty other men for the airport bus or a limousine. While we waited, a beautiful French girl emerged from the hotel lobby with magnificent needlepoint luggage. All eyes followed her. She approached the doorman and requested a taxi. At this time the Boston strangler was striking terror among the women of that city and the beautiful girl was also apprehensive. When the doorman successfully hailed a taxi, the driver presented to her a very rough and dangerous appearance. She said she was afraid. The doorman explained that he had know the driver for years, and he would vouch for him. But all this was to no avail. Suddenly the French girl turned to the thirty gawking men and came to me and said, "Will you go with me to the airport?" My wife's comment relative to her selection was that she apparently hoped to pick out the safest man in the group. Needless to state, I assisted her by helping her catch her plane to New York City.

On one visit to Kansas City, Missouri, I was treated like a celebrity. I was staying at the Muehlebach Hotel, and upon arrival I went about the city filling all the speaking engagements that had been assigned to me for the first day of my visit to that city. Apparently that particular day was a very slow day for news because the newspaper featured my picture and an account of my speeches on the front page of the morning paper. The phone to my room began to ring about 6:00 a.m. and I answered it continuously until I was forced to give up, get dressed, and leave the hotel for my next speaking assignments.

I did not return to the hotel until late in the evening. By that time the telephone calls had subsided. I learned that the hotel manager had placed one girl in charge of my phone calls and she gave me a list of approximately one hundred and fifty numbers to call. Of course I did not have the time or the inclination to undertake such a task. I was amused, however, when I checked out of the Muehlebach.

The manager told me how delighted he was that I had selected his hotel, and he hoped that on my next visit to Kansas City I would become his guest, assuring me all the while that they would take the utmost care in handling all of my telephone calls.

Another incident occurred while I was speaking in Alabama. In the middle of my speech a great commotion arose in my audience. It looked ominous. My sponsor thought that the South was about to rise again under the stimulus of my praise of the great Union leader. Then all apprehension was soon relieved. One of my listeners had suffered a seizure.

I always enjoyed cordial relations with my audiences when I lectured in New Orleans, Birmingham, Memphis, Little Rock, Jackson (Mississippi), Atlanta, Richmond, and all the Southern cities that I visited. However, I do recall some interesting introductions by the chairmen. In Memphis the chairman of a luncheon club said, "Imagine me, the son of a United Daughter of the Confederacy, a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity (Southern antecedents), standing before you on General Robert E. Lee's birthday to introduce to you a man who will speak on Abraham Lincoln." This introduction provoked great laughter, and I received a cordial reception.

On another occasion, when speaking in Richmond, I mentioned in my talk that the Northern victory at Antietam enabled Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. The chairman, once I had completed my address, made some kind comments relative to my appearance before his luncheon club. Then he said that the members were somewhat startled to learn that Sharpsburg (Southerners never called the battle "Antietam") was a Northern victory.

One major rule that I consistently followed while speaking before Southern groups was never to mention the name of Major General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Once when I was speaking before a sophisticated group of men in Washington, D.C., I momentarily became fascinated with the sound of my voice and with a forensic flourish I said that, "if Lincoln had not saved the Union, no one

would have saved it." Suddenly a man stood up and said, "There is nothing to worry about. Texas would have saved it."

The most humorous event of all occurred while I was addressing the Kansas City Kiwanis Club. In the middle of my address Abraham Lincoln, tall hat and all, walked up to the podium, extended his hand and said, "McMurtry you are doing a good job." He then left the banquet room and I never saw him again. Everyone wondered who had sponsored this little episode. The General Agent of my company knew nothing about it, the Kiwanis Club had not arranged it, and I certainly was not responsible for the flight back into time. It was not until weeks later that we learned that one of the newspapers had staged the appearance of the Lincoln impersonator. It seemed that that day was a slow news day, and they hoped to manufacture a news story.

Once while visiting a Lincoln National Life Insurance Company agent in southern Indiana he escorted me to Henderson, Kentucky, where I was to make an address before a luncheon club. The agent had sent ahead to the local newspaper my photograph along with a little blurb about my career as a Lincoln specialist. Imagine our surprise to read in the February 4, 1971, issue of the *Gleaner-Journal* of Henderson, Kentucky, an account of the political career of a man who was running for governor of Kentucky accompanied by my photograph. Underneath my picture was the name of Tom Emberton, who had announced the day before as a Republican candidate for that office.

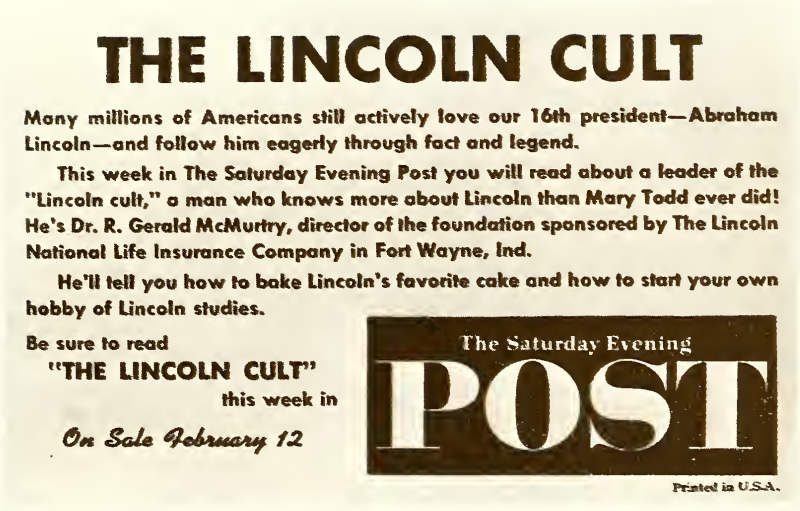
After becoming settled in my position in Fort Wayne, exuding a great deal of confidence in my work, a professional free-lance author named Charles W. White from Carmel, Indiana, visited the Lincoln Library and Museum during the late fall of 1956. He wanted to write an article for *The Saturday Evening Post* about the fine collection that had been assembled on the fourth floor of the home office building of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. Naturally, I was eager to assist him in every way possible. We spent a whole day discussing books, manuscripts, relics, photographs, and such; however, his story was not

coming together as he wished it would. He left disappointed.

A few days later I received a postcard from Mr. White stating, "I have decided to write the story about you." He returned to Fort Wayne, Dr. Warren joined us, and after long discussions he seemed to be pleased with the notes he had made. A few days later I had another postal card stating that, "I guess they're buying the story." After some revisions the manuscript was accepted for publication for the February 17, 1957, issue.

After the acceptance of the article, the *Post* photographer, Frank Ross, spent about a week in Fort Wayne. He made scores of photographs of me, of the Library and Museum, of specific items in the collection, of visitors who came to the Museum, and of my home. In fact, the photographer asked my wife to bake Lincoln's favorite cake (the recipe appeared in the article). Then he made a photograph of her serving it to me and my daughter Linda, while my youngest daughter Jan got the first piece.

This article proved to be excellent publicity for the Lincoln National Life Foundation as well as the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. Many fine Lincoln items were offered to the Foundation for sale, and in many cases


THE LINCOLN CULT
Many millions of Americans still actively love our 16th president—Abraham Lincoln—and follow him eagerly through fact and legend.
This week in The Saturday Evening Post you will read about a leader of the "Lincoln cult," a man who knows more about Lincoln than Mary Todd ever did! He's Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, director of the foundation sponsored by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in Fort Wayne, Ind.
He'll tell you how to bake Lincoln's favorite cake and how to start your own hobby of Lincoln studies.
Be sure to read
"THE LINCOLN CULT"
this week in
On Sale February 12
The Saturday Evening
POST
Printed in U.S.A.

valuable materials were contributed as gifts. The publisher distributed throughout Fort Wayne a little circular asking people to read Charles W. White's "The Lincoln Cult" and suggesting that "a leader of this Lincoln Cult" was R. Gerald McMurtry, "a man who knows more about Lincoln than Mary Todd ever did."

Unfortunately I had not been a resident of Fort Wayne for very long ($8\frac{1}{2}$ months), and not many local citizens knew this man who supposedly understood Lincoln better than Mary Todd.

In July 1957 I was invited, along with thirteen other historians and specialists in the Lincoln field, to appear before a House Judiciary Subcommittee looking into the feasibility of the establishment of a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission. When it came time for me to speak, I of course was highly in favor of the idea, and I described the Sixteenth President as the most revered universal character since the beginning of the Christian era. I also pointed out that in the 1960s there would be several nationwide celebrations of anniversaries associated with Lincoln and the Civil War, and I suggested that during such a 150th celebration of Lincoln's birth special postage stamps could be issued, new coins could be minted, Lincoln literature could be widely circulated, essay and speech contests could be held, and editorials and cartoons by the press could be encouraged. I pointed out that such a commission could suggest that playwrights, artists, musicians, and the film industry utilize Lincoln themes. Stimulus could also be provided to set aside hitherto neglected historical sites associated with Lincoln. The advocates of a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission received a very enthusiastic response from the House Judiciary Subcommittee, and eventually positive action was set into motion.

One evening while I was eating dinner at home with my family, the telephone rang. I answered it. An unfamiliar voice said, "I am speaking from the White House. The President would like to know if you will serve on the National Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission." Rather excitedly I said I would be delighted. Of course this inquiry was not a

complete surprise. Having appeared before the House Judiciary Subcommittee, I knew that the establishment of such a Commission was most likely. I surely did want to be a member. So much so, that I contacted my old friend, the Honorable Frank Chelf, the Congressman from my Kentucky home district, telling him of my desire. We were, and are, well acquainted, having been associated with each other during our boyhood in Elizabethtown and later as students at Centre College.

Frank went before the proper authorities and insisted that I be appointed. Finally a letter dated November 2, 1957, was directed to me at Harrogate, Tennessee, from the Assistant to the President, Sherman Adams, stating that "the President would like to inquire if you would be available to serve as one of his appointees to the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission." I immediately replied, after the letter was redirected to me at Fort Wayne, that I would be delighted to serve.

Eventually a large scroll-like appointment dated November 29, 1957, arrived at my Fort Wayne address, attesting to the "integrity and ability" of R. Gerald McMurtry of Tennessee to be a member of the Commission and signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles. Why they thought I was then living in Tennessee, I will never know.

Working with the Commission was a delightful experience. I enjoyed making the trips to Washington, D.C., and I was especially pleased to be associated with old friends on the Commission such as Randall B. Truett, Frank Chelf, F. Jay Nimtz, and William H. Townsend. It was also a pleasure to serve under the chairman of the commission, John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky.[15]

After the first meeting I received a warm and friendly letter from Frank Chelf. Among other things he wrote, "Gerald—I could not help but think last Saturday as we sat side by side as members of a presidential commission that two lean hungry youngsters that used to jaw and yak out in front of 'Dinty Moore's' on the square in old E'town—had come a long way." It was gratifying to have a good friend and influential Congressman working for my better interests.

The Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission: Dr. McMurtry stands next to Senator Everett Dirkson. Congressman Leo Allen of Illinois is at McMurtry's left. Congressman Chelf's head is visible at the rear. Senator Frank Church of Idaho stands at center behind Kentucky Senator John

Sherman Cooper. Randle B. Truett is seated next to Bertha Adkins, Chairman of the Woman's Republican Committee. The Librarian of Congress, L. Quincy Mumford, is seated at the far right next to Congressman F. Jay Nimtz of Indiana and Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois.

We accomplished many things. We changed the reverse of the Lincoln penny, made provisions for the issuance of commemorative postage stamps, issued publications, instituted an educational program, took part in ceremonies, gave awards and citations, broadcast Lincoln literature worldwide, encouraged the Lincoln theme to be featured in radio and television shows, sponsored newspaper and magazine articles, encouraged painting and sculpture that depicted Lincoln, dispersed microfilm of Lincoln manuscripts in the Library of Congress worldwide, distributed to colleges *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln,* and sent Lincoln scholars abroad to lecture on Lincoln topics, to list just some of the many projects of the committee.

It was also my good fortune to be the Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation during the period of some centennial celebrations. One hundredth anniversary celebrations were held in each of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate cities, and it was my privilege to attend several of these, the most notable being held at Freeport and Galesburg. A special United States commemorative stamp was issued at Freeport on August 27, 1958, the centennial date of the debate, and this proved to be a great day for philatelists. I was lucky enough to acquire a full sheet of the 4¢ stamp which depicts Lincoln and Douglas engaged in a debate before a large audience. The design of the stamp was taken from a lithograph based on a painting by Joseph Boggs Beale (1841–1926). My full sheet, which I acquired while attending the debate centennial, bears the signature of the Honorable Arthur E. Summerfield, Postmaster General. This was presented to me publicly during the ceremony.

Two other notable events relative to the centennial observances were the reenactments of Abraham Lincoln's first (1861) and second (1865) inaugurations. They were staged in Washington, D.C., and done as nearly historically correct as was possible.

During the year previous to the Lincoln sesquicentennial, many states set up commissions in order that they might assist the national effort and carry out local projects

peculiar to their own states. The state of Indiana was admirably suited to make elaborate plans for a recognition of the fact that Abraham Lincoln had spent one-fourth of his entire life (age 7 to 21) in the southern part of Hoosierland. A full-time director was employed, money was appropriated by the state, and many worthwhile projects were accomplished. I was named by Governor Harold Handley to serve on the Indiana sesquicentennial commission, and I made many trips to Indianapolis to attend committee meetings.

One of the first of the important events that occurred during the Lincoln Sesquicentennial year was Carl Sandburg's address before a joint session of Congress on Lincoln's birthday. As a member of the National Commission, I was able to secure a choice seat near the Speaker of the House, and I heard the nation's poet describe Lincoln as a man who was "both steel and velvet,—as hard as rock and soft as drifting fog." This was undoubtedly one of the most important Lincoln addresses ever delivered. When Sandburg completed his address there was a standing ovation. Many people who were present on that occasion (February 12, 1959) were of the opinion that they had heard one of the great orations of our modern day.

In November 1960 Sandburg came to Fort Wayne to open the Moring Lecture Series at the Fort Wayne Art School Auditorium. I was asked to introduce him. Among other things I said that, "While America will ever be grateful for his poetry, one of his greatest contributions has been his monumental biography of Abraham Lincoln." "He is," I added, "the only literary artist among the myriad historians and biographers to devote a lifetime of study to the Sixteenth President." I continued, "Many people attempt to explain Abraham Lincoln's present day popularity. Undoubtedly one explanation is that the events of Lincoln's colorful prairie years in Illinois and his tragic war years in Washington, D.C. are best revealed to us in his (Sandburg's) magnificent prose."

An account of Sandburg's visit to Fort Wayne is worthy of relating. He was expected by the Fort Wayne Art School to arrive on Saturday. He was flying from Los Angeles from the

20th Century Fox motion picture lot where he had been working as a consultant. He did not arrive on Saturday. Likewise, he did not arrive on Sunday. His address was scheduled for Monday evening.

On Monday morning Bob Belot, an insurance salesman, saw Sandburg wandering aimlessly about the airport. He greeted him with a statement that he hoped he would enjoy his visit to Fort Wayne. Belot also inquired whether he had transportation downtown. The poet replied that he did not, and he was delighted to accept the invitation that was offered.

Enroute to the city the subject of hotels came up. Where would Sandburg stay? Sandburg stated that he hated all hotels. Belot suggested that he stay at his home. Sandburg thought this was an excellent idea.

That day happened to be Bob and Barbara Belot's first wedding anniversary. That morning Bob had promised his wife a surprise anniversary gift. Enroute into downtown, Bob stopped at his office, called Barbara, and told her Carl Sandburg was the surprise. She could hardly believe her ears. After the usual amenities Sandburg took a rest. This was not unusual because by nature he was a night person —he slept all day and stayed awake all night. The press finally located the Pulitzer prize winner and the anxiety of the Art School was alleviated. Sandburg told his hosts that he had to be at the Art School by 8:30 p.m. and that he would like a dinner of ham and eggs. Following his dinner the Belots took him to the Art School in their compact car.

The Belots found Sandburg was very positive in his likes and dislikes, and the latter included cigarettes, cosmetics, and television. After his address, which was followed by the usual lionizing, he returned home with the Belots. Commenting on his address he said, "Boy, did I give cigarettes Hell tonight." Then with a chuckle he said to Belot, "Say, could I have one of your cigars?"

Sandburg told me that evening that he wanted to visit the Lincoln Library and Museum the next morning. He said, "We will have a quiet chat, no publicity, no radio or television cameras, and no newspaper reporters." When I

arrived for work the next morning the Library and Museum was crowded with the media. I feared Sandburg would not like this. When he arrived he was delighted.

Finally he departed from the city, and, when thanking his hosts for their hospitality, he pulled out of his travel-worn bag a copy of his poems and he inscribed the flyleaf as follows:

> For Bob and Barbara
> May the road to Hell grow green
> and flowering waitin' for you
>
> CARL SANDBURG 1960

Perhaps that inscription has a value today far exceeding the long distance telephone tolls, the cigars, the loss of sleep, other expenses, and disruptions in connection with his visit with the Belots.[16]

During the period while I was serving as a member of the National Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission I had the good fortune to become acquainted with the black dentist Dr. John E. Washington, who was the author of an excellent book entitled *They Knew Lincoln*. To quote Carl Sandburg, "Here is the vivid personal narrative of a Negro boy and man who sought all that could be possibly known about Abraham Lincoln from Negroes having impressions or facts he considered worth record."

While searching for the information for the book Dr. Washington was able to acquire a few valuable Lincoln relics which were genuine beyond all doubt. He wanted me to see his collection, and I was invited to visit him in his home on Florida Avenue. I readily accepted the invitation. I was staying at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., and walking out to the front of the curb I got into a taxi. I said to the driver, "Take me to 463 Florida Avenue." The taxi driver turned around in his seat in disbelief and he said, "Did—you—say—Florida—Avenue?"

Upon my arrival at his nice home I was greeted warmly by Dr. Washington. I enjoyed thoroughly looking over his material, and he gave me quite a few fine relics for the Lincoln National Life Foundation. He even insisted that I ac-

cept some for my own personal collection. I remember these gifts consisted of pieces of cloth and lace from Mary Todd Lincoln's gowns and an oil portrait of a man who resembled Stephen A. Douglas. He also presented me with photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and their contemporaries in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately the oil portrait, after considerable study, was declared to be someone other than the Senator from Illinois.

Eventually it was time for me to leave and my host made the statement that, "Maybe I should go down on the street with you and see that you safely secure a cab." A taxi was hailed without delay. I directed the driver to take me to the Statler-Hilton. Somewhat startled, he turned around in his seat and he said, "Did—you—say—Statler-Hilton?"

One of the never-ending responsibilities of the Director of the Lincoln Library and Museum is the editorship of *Lincoln Lore*, a monthly publication with some 7000 subscribers. This bulletin was first published as a one-page weekly on April 15, 1929, and continued with this format until the issue of June 25, 1956, which was numbered 1420. Beginning with number 1421, July 1956, the bulletin became a four-page monthly. While it is hard to explain my feeling about the one-page weekly, it occurred to me that Dr. Warren had just about exhausted all the topics of the length of one page. I believed, and the theory worked well for me, that many topics were opened up for discussion that would require four pages, especially since I wished to use many illustrations in connection with my articles. It has now reached the 1700s. It is undoubtedly the most voluminous publication ever issued which is devoted to the study of one historical character.

I always found the writing and publication of numbers 1421 to 1620 to be a labor of love. To be sure some issues were good, some mediocre, and perhaps some were inexcusably poor. Nevertheless I am exceedingly proud that I have had a chance to make a contribution to this great body of historical literature.

The year 1959 was the best year of my entire career as a Lincoln specialist. Not only did I attend numerous com-

mittee meetings, but I was present at commemorative events, made many addresses, listened to a great many politicians where crowds would gather at historic sites, saw statues unveiled, bronze tablets erected, and I was kept busy trying to purchase every Lincoln book or pamphlet, regardless of the country in which it was published, that came from the press. Somehow, I found time to collaborate with David J. Harkness on *Lincoln's Favorite Poets*, published that year by the University of Tennessee Press.

Some of the Lincoln people who visited the Library and Museum or that I met in my extensive travel after my return to Fort Wayne in 1956 were: Robert V. Bruce, Ishbel Ross, John S. Goff, Douglas C. McMurtrie, Gabor S. Boritt, Justin G. Turner, Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt, David Plowden, Randle B. Truett, Ralph Borreson, Paul Simon, John Y. Simon, James T. Hickey, Weldon Petz, Kenneth P. Williams, Harold M. Hyman, Ruth Painter Randall, Marion Dolores Pratt, Lloyd A. Dunlap, Otto R. Kyle, Charles H. Coleman, Philip Van Dorn Stern, Wayne C. Temple, Lloyd Ostendorf, William E. Baringer, Richard N. Current, William B. Hesseltine, King V. Hostick, Leroy H. Fischer, Willard L. King, Arnold Gates, Harold K. Sage, Joseph George, Jr., Philip D. Sang, Fred Schwengel, Bell I. Wiley, Grady McWhiney, Stefan Lorant, H. Jack Lang, John K. Lattimer, Elwell Crissey, Harry Wood, Carl Haverlin, and Adin Baber.[17] Perhaps there are many others equally as important whom I do not recall.

I began to hear rumors that the International Educational Exchange Service of the Department of State was working in cooperation with the National Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission to offer grants to American specialists to lecture on Lincoln in foreign countries. When the matter was brought to the attention of the committee in session, I immediately let it be known that this appealed to me very much. I lost no time in contacting my Congressman friend and expressed to him my desire to lecture abroad. Without losing any time he contacted the State Department, and I heard that Frank Chelf demanded that a

Kentuckian be selected for one of the assignments. This might have led to some confusion. My appointment stated that I was from Tennessee, and I resided in Indiana. Nevertheless, on June 5, 1959, I received a letter from Frederick A. Colwell, Chief of American Specialists Branch of the State Department, offering me a grant to visit the Far East. My itinerary included the following countries: Korea, last two weeks of September, 1959; Taiwan, one week; Hong Kong, one week; Indonesia, ten days; Singapore, one week; Malaya, one week; and Thailand, two weeks.

My assignment was to deliver a series of lectures to focus attention on the Lincoln sesquicentennial observance, American ideals, and the role of the Sixteenth President in United States history. As the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company officials were agreeable to making my services available to the United States government, I accepted the grant.

Because 1959 was the Lincoln sesquicentennial year, the United States Information Service posts were furnished with a considerable amount of Lincoln literature which was widely distributed. So, before my arrival in the Far East, the people were reading, in their own language or in English, about America's greatest President.

The State Department requested me to visit Washington, D.C., to get instruction relative to proper conduct and how to cope with adverse situations that I might encounter in the Far East. Among other instructions they stressed that I should never project the sole of my shoe toward a Thai. If I were confronted with a heckler (usually a communist) who attempted to embarrass me with a question and I needed time to collect my wits, they advised me to ask him, "Who prompted you to ask that question?" Sure enough, in Singapore two burning questions of the day were put to me, namely, "Would Lincoln recognize Red China?" and "Tell us about Little Rock."

In making preparations for my lecture tour I took with me about twenty different speeches on as many phases of Lincoln's life. From these I hoped to select some to fit the occasion as well as the intellectual level of my audience.

Gerald McMurtry at Helm Place in Lexington, Kentucky, with (left to right) Elodie Helm Lewis, William H. Townsend, J. Winston Coleman, Jr., and Ben Hardin Helm, Jr.

Thinking, however, to make Lincoln more appealing to the Asian people, I prepared a new lecture entitled "Lincoln and Asia." After introducing my topic, I quoted Mohandas Gandhi as follows: "Who can think of Abraham Lincoln without being uplifted by the life and example of this noble American?" Next I pointed out that Prime Minister Nehru was an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln, and I related in my speech that he had written to a friend in the United States: "It is an honour to be associated in any way with the great name of Abraham Lincoln." Then I pointed out in my lecture that Nehru drew daily inspiration from the life, career, and deeds of Abraham Lincoln. I stated that on Nehru's desk there was a bronze hand of Lincoln made from a life mold taken in 1860 by a sculptor named Leonard W. Volk and that Nehru was quoted as having said, "I look at it every day, it is strong, firm and yet gentle. It gives me great strength."

I was quite pleased with the opening paragraphs of my speech until I showed a copy to the Cultural Affairs Officer of the American Embassy in Seoul, Korea. He told me my speech would not be appropriate in Korea because Nehru was thoroughly disliked due to his policy of neutralism. The theme that should be developed, according to this Foreign Service officer, was Lincoln's Unionism, because the people of South Korea fervently looked forward to the day when they could be reunited with North Korea. My advisers were correct in their appraisal of the Korean mind because in the twenty speeches that I made in that country, I stressed the importance of Union and how Lincoln saved a divided country and my addresses met with huge success.

While I was better versed in Far Eastern affairs, I was determined to give my "Lincoln and Asia" lecture in Taiwan. By this time there had been incorporated into the speech several paragraphs on Lincoln and Union. In this lecture I related that 10,000 graduates from 200 high schools in Tokyo in 1958 had ranked Lincoln first of the most respected of all world figures. Then, too, it occurred to me that Taiwan (Formosa) would want union with Mainland China. But an astute Foreign Service adviser informed

me that the Chinese of Taiwan were not particularly interested in how Japanese school children would rank world figures and that the last thing that they wanted was union with Mainland China—the Taiwan Chinese wanted to return to China once the political situation was changed in that unfortunate country.

Again my speech was politically at odds with the country to which I was assigned. However, my other lectures were enthusiastically received, and the numerous audiences that I addressed were eager to hear for the first time or have repeated again that Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the first president of modern China, was an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln. According to a well established report an inquiry was made of China's first president as to what were his hopes for the future of China, and the statesman replied: (letter to Mrs. Chan Jett of New York City, April 1921) "We wish to see established in our country the system of government which the great Lincoln in a memorable phrase described as 'government of the people, by the people and for the people.'" This Gettysburg Address quotation became Sun Yat-sen's three basic principles of government.

In preparing my new address I was eager to find out how many times Lincoln used the word "Asia." I found one reference; however, there must undoubtedly be more. Lincoln said, in speaking before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois, on January 27, 1838, that: "All the Armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years." This statement, when taken out of context is not one designed to build good will between American and Asian countries; however, I did use the quotation on occasion when asked if Lincoln ever made any reference to the Far East. To have admitted that there was no record of Lincoln ever having mentioned that continent would have been disconcerting indeed.

While in Hong Kong I had no occasion to use my special "Lincoln and Asia" address. There I spoke at the Mencius

Foundation and Hong Kong University, using conventional subject topics which they especially requested. Nevertheless, my Asia speech would have occasioned little interest in that British Crown Colony, as the people had little desire to participate in government in that peculiar and fabulous territory.

In Indonesia I used a paragraph of my speech to relate that President Sukarno was one of the modern statesmen in Asia who had come to admire Abraham Lincoln. He was reported to have said in Washington, D.C., that "Lincoln had been one of his teachers and that he looked to America as 'the center of an idea.'" Many of the people of Indonesia had forgotten that in 1949 the new republic had issued a series of postage stamps that included one carrying a portrait of Lincoln along with a portrait of Vice-President Hatta.

Indonesia was not a happy nation due to certain dictatorial powers assumed by its president and its soft currency. The nature of my speeches was reviewed by the Indonesia authorities before delivery, and I experienced some fearful moments at the University of Indonesia when my statement that Lincoln "never deceived his constituency regarding domestic and foreign affairs" provoked a noisy demonstration.

In Singapore I spoke at six universities and educational institutions, and by this time I had practically abandoned my "Lincoln and Asia" lecture. As in all the countries that I visited in Asia, my engagements were arranged by the Ministry of Education. Like the people of Hong Kong, the people of Singapore knew very little about United States history, primarily because the British system of education in crown colonies had failed to find a place in their curriculum for such a course. Because many of the Chinese students in the university groups which I addressed were known to be avowed Red China communists, I often used a topic entitled, "If Lincoln Were Here." In this speech I used extensive quotations or implications from Lincoln's own words concerning agriculture, world peace, law enforcement, private property, labor and capital, communism and

socialism, education, and civil rights. In the question and answer periods many pertinent questions were asked. Some questions dealt with matters other than Lincoln. On one occasion a student told me that he had read and that he firmly believed slavery still existed in the United States. Needless to state, these questions were answered as astutely as possible and the query about slavery was declared preposterous.

In Malaya, a delightful country, my audiences were primarily interested in the academic aspects of Lincoln's life. Some of my distinguished listeners were the French Ambassador, the Prime Minister of Selangor, the Indonesian Ambassador, the Ambassador of the United Arab Republic, the Ambassador of Burma, and the charge d'affaires of the American Embassy. As in all the countries which I visited, the film, "Meet Mr. Lincoln," an N.B.C. production, was enthusiastically viewed by all present.

In Thailand my "Lincoln and Asia" lecture was acceptable in every detail. Particularly did they like the account of Lincoln's correspondence with King Mongut of Siam. The Siamese King apparently addressed two letters dated February 14, 1861, to President James Buchanan, as President-elect Lincoln was not inaugurated until March 4 of that year. There is also some evidence that King Mongut addressed a letter to Franklin Pierce at the time he was President of the United States. It was Lincoln, however, who acknowledged the letters on February 3, 1862, as follows:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States of America.
To His Majesty Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongut,
KING OF SIAM,

Great and Good Friend:
I have received Your Majesty's two letters of the date of February 14th., 1861.

I have also received in good condition the royal gifts which accompanied those letters,—namely, a sword of costly materials and exquisite workmanship; a photographic likeness of Your Majesty and of Your Majesty's

beloved daughter; and also two elephants' tusks of length and magnitude such as indicate that they could have belonged only to an animal which was a native of Siam.

Your Majesty's letters show an undertanding that our laws forbid the President from receiving these rich presents as personal treasures. They are therefore accepted in accordance with Your Majesty's desire as tokens of your good will and friendship for the American People. Congress being now in session at this capital, I have had great pleasure in making known to them this manifestation of Your Majesty's munificence and kind consideration.

Under their directions the gifts will be placed among the archives of the Government, where they will remain perpetually as tokens of mutual esteem and pacific dispositions more honorable to both nations than any trophies of conquest could be.

I appreciate most highly Your Majesty's tender of good offices in forwarding to this Government a stock from which a supply of elephants might be raised on our own soil. This Government would not hesitate to avail itself of so generous an offer if the object were one which could be made practically useful in the present condition of the United States.

Our political jurisdiction, however, does not reach a latitude so low as to favor the multiplication of the elephant, and steam on land, as well as on water, has been our best and most efficient agent of transportation in internal commerce.

I shall have occasion at no distant day to transmit to Your Majesty some token of indication of the high sense which this Government entertains of Your Majesty's friendship.

Meantime, wishing for Your Majesty a long and happy life, and for the generous and emulous People of Siam the highest possible prosperity, I commend both to the blessing of Almight God. Your Good Friend,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Washington, February 3, 1862.

By the President:

William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

Lincoln did make known to Congress the receipt of the letters and gifts from King Mongut. On February 26, 1862, the President addressed a communication to the Senate and House of Representatives as follows: "In transmitting to Congress the accompanying copy of two letters, bearing [the] date [of] the 14th of February, 1861, from his Majesty the Major King of Siam to the President of the United States, and of the President's answer thereto, I submit for their consideration the question as to the proper place of deposit of the gifts received with the royal letters referred to."

By a joint resolution, 37th Congress, Second Session, Senate Executive Document No. 23, approved March 15, it was provided that the letter(s) from His Majesty the Major King of Siam and the accompanying gifts (a sword and scabbard, a photograph of the King, and a pair of elephant tusks) "be deposited in the collection of curiosities at the Department of the Interior."

Knowing that the people of Thailand would make inquiries concerning these relics, because they have great admiration for their kings, I instituted a search to determine their location. David C. Mearns, Chief of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, assisted me in this quest. On August 24, 1959, he wrote as follows:

> Since my conversation with you, we have examined the annual reports of the Smithsonian Institution for the years 1862–1865 for information concerning either the Institution's receipt of the gifts presented to Mr. Lincoln by the King of Siam or their destruction in the Smithsonian fire of 1865. This search was in vain. Webster Prentiss True's and George Brown Goode's histories of the Smithsonian contained no mention of the Siamese gifts, and the Institution's Political History Division was unable to find any record of the Smithsonian having accommodated these tusks and other gifts.
> The Library of the Department of the Interior has informed us that the phrase: "the collection of curiosities at the Department of the Interior" in the Congressional resolution of March 15, 1862, in all probability was a

Dr. McMurtry in his office in the Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne. It was widely regarded as the handsomest office in the building,

superior even to that of the president of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

> reference to the model room in the United States Patent Office Building, and that it is also probable that these presents to President Lincoln were lost in the fire which destroyed the north and west halls of the model room on September 24, 1877.

This information concerning the loss of the relics was received by the Thai people, in the area where I made addresses, with a great deal of regret.

While abroad I experienced many unexpected episodes on the lecture platform. In most of the countries of Asia it was necessary to use an interpreter. However, the number of people in all of Asia who have some comprehension of the English language is remarkable. A humorous incident occured, however, in Korea when I gave my interpreter my address to read and study so that he might have less difficulty in making the translation. It was required in all the countries by the ministers of education that I use a manuscript. The interpreter apparently memorized my speech because as we proceeded with the topic he got ahead of me. This caused him great embarrassment and was a matter of considerable mirth for the audience.

One incident that was not so humorous also took place in Korea. I had stood on a platform for a period of approximately forty minutes delivering my Lincoln address before a courteous and receptive audience. Directly over my head, hanging from a high ceiling, was a chandelier. Immediately after completing my address, I left the lectern and almost simultaneously the chandelier crashed to the floor. I will never know whether this was an accident or a plan to sabotage my speaking tour.

While lecturing in Korea I was able to attract very large audiences. On several occasions I would have university students visit me at my hotel room, sometimes quite late in the evening, with the request that I tell them more about Abraham Lincoln, his political philosophy, and how it might be applied to modern Korea. On one occasion while lecturing at a Korean university, I was so well received that a large group of students, with their professors, traveled

twenty-five miles to the railway station, where I was to take a train, to tell me how very much they appreciated my visit and the message that I had brought to them. For several years after my visit to Korea I received Christmas cards from many Koreans, which I greatly appreciated, but, regretfully, I did not remember my well-wishers individually.

In Thailand great crowds came to hear me. On one occasion, during my entire address about six electricians were on the stage with me working on the public address system. While I spoke to my audience they consumed bushels of stalks of sugar cane, which is popular in season, like popcorn in the United States. On another occasion when I spoke in Thailand, an old dog came to my platform, looked at me, and with great disdain retired to more pleasant surroundings. A great many dogs attended my lectures. Perhaps the most exciting event in Thailand occurred when several large rats ran across my platform only to be followed momentarily by a gang of cats in hot pursuit.

While in Thailand, I was not only accompanied by United States Information Services personnel but arrangements were also made for the services of a very agreeable Siamese named Khun Nom Upramai. He did not act as an interpreter but was supposed to give my audience a condensed version of my speech. He had visited all the Lincoln shrines in the United States and had read a considerable number of Lincoln biographies. His help was necessary because the Thais would lose face to admit that they could not understand me. My helper was politically ambitious. He had once served in some capacity in the Siamese Department of Education and he was eager for reappointment. This was a great opportunity for him to appear before the people. He not only gave a concise version of what I said, but he added an enlarged version of his own interpretation of Lincoln's life and career.

Khun Nom Upramai wanted to take the "show" to a university in the hinterland of Siam. So we traveled over impossible roads as far as we could, then took a boat in a swift river to a makeshift wharf. There we boarded rickshaws for the final leg of our journey. Several hundred students as-

sembled in houses with grass roofs and many stood outside awaiting my speech. Never had I encountered such a primitive forum.

My Siamese friend proceeded to introduce me, and, when I got up to speak in English, my audience roared with laughter—they literally rolled in the aisles. Never before had these students heard English spoken. I quickly retired from the scene, and then Khun Nom Upramai told the audience, among other things, all about Lincoln's so-called romance with Ann Rutledge. When he spoke, I of course could not understand him, but I did pick up names like Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Ann Rutledge. I objected to this elaboration, but the U.S.I.S. people pointed out to me that we had a good show and that we should keep it on the road. We were without question building good will for our nation.

In Thailand I would often meet Presbyterian missionaries who told me that they were envious of the large crowds that came out to hear about Abraham Lincoln. One very likeable missionary invited my group to his home for dinner. After the meal we wandered out into his front yard, because it was a delightful evening. We were warned, however, by our new friend not to go near a brush pile only some sixty-five or seventy-five feet away, because it was infested with a nest of snakes—cobras.

Interesting things happened to me off the lecture platform too. Upon my arrival in Hong Kong, I registered at a hotel in Kowloon, which is under the British Protectorate but on the mainland of China. I was eager to report to the United States Embassy at Hong Kong. Not knowing how to get there, I approached a group of rickshaws all awaiting customers and exhibiting considerable competition for business. Finally after seating myself in one, I said to the Chinese that was to pull the primitive vehicle, "Take me to the United States Embassy." He replied, "No, no, I take you to pretty lady." Later on I learned that the embassy was located on a steep hill, and no rickshaw man in his right mind was going to pull me up that hill. All trips to the embassy, including that one, were made by taxi.

There were days given over to sight-seeing, and I will always remember my trip on a United Nations train to the 38th parallel, which separates South Korea from North Korea. It was pleasant talking with the American soldiers stationed at that dangerous outpost and quite an experience to try to rest in a Korean railway sleeper with a cuspidor on the floor immediately below my pillow.

Hotel accomodations in the rural areas of most of the countries that I visited in Asia were woefully inadequate by Western standards. I was once fortunate to get a room with what they called a bath. It consisted of a bucket of water and a hole in the floor. I never drank the water and I brushed my teeth with beer. One of the first no-nos I learned was never to eat a salad—it might be contaminated with night soil. Many nights were spent in railway stations because there was no place else to go. To make such hardships bearable one of our U.S.I.S. personnel in Thailand was a very attractive young lady who was able to cope with the problems of travel as well as the men.

On other occasions I would be invited to stay with the U.S.I.S. officer and his family in some faraway outpost. They were always glad to meet an American. We would sit up all night talking—mainly my task was to bring these U.S. representatives up to date on news events back home. In one particular, I failed. I was never well informed on baseball scores and batting averages. I might say that I never felt so welcome, never laughed so heartily, and never had so much fun as when I was invited to stay in the homes of these United States Information Service people.

I should explain about the U.S.I.S. group that accompanied me whenever I made a talk. We traveled in three vehicles. I was in the lead car with the U.S.I.S. officer and a native driver. Following next was a truck containing a projector to show the film "Meet Mr. Lincoln" along with a dynamo sufficient to furnish electric power to run the projector. The third truck contained a photographer, an assistant, and all the necessary chemicals and equipment for taking and developing photographs. At the next city I would pick up another group.

I spent some leisure days in a small town in Thailand as the guest (there were other U.S.I.S. people in my party) of a Chinese big-game hunter whose specialty was the trapping of black leopards for zoos in the Western world. He took us on a trip into the mountains where we saw many primitive conditions and were introduced to several head-men who were powerful leaders in their particular regions. Upon my departure I was presented with two beautifully colored goat skin shadow pictures, and when I returned home I sent him a bust of Lincoln sculpted by Jo Davidson.

The peak of my social career occurred in Djakarta, Indonesia, when His Excellency Henry Jones, Ambassador of the United States to Indonesia, invited me to a reception. He had heard me deliver a Lincoln address at the leading hotel in Djakarta, and he made arrangements for an embassy limousine to pick me up at my rather second-rate hotel. It was fun to speed through the streets of this city with American and embassy flags flying. Upon reaching our destination the butler at the door announced my name in a loud voice, and I proceeded down the receiving line meeting a great number of Eastern diplomats.

After the reception I was escorted back to my hotel where I was compelled to share a room with an East German businessman who could not speak English. I could not speak German. Indonesian army officers had taken practically all the hotel rooms in the city, and this was the reason why visitors had to double up.

While in Indonesia I often had occasion to call at the United States Information Service office, and in every case I was escorted out of the office onto their beautiful grounds where we transacted our business. Perhaps one reason was that a known spy was desperately trying to learn how I secured the Indonesian money I was using for expenses. They had reason to believe that I secured the money illegally on the black market—which was not the case. In fact the spy, a very agreeable young woman, accompanied me wherever I went in Djakarta and would occasionally bring up the subject, hoping to trap me into some kind of confession.

One other reception was equally delightful while I was in Singapore. I attended a reception at the home of the Consul General of the United States in honor of Senator and Mrs. Hiram Fong of Hawaii. I got to know Senator Fong rather well because we often appeared before identical groups. In fact, in one or two instances my engagements were cancelled in favor of Senator Fong. He regretted this and of course I did not bear him any ill will.

I will always remember the large amount of rice wine offered when toasts were given at a dinner in my honor in Taipei, Taiwan, by Mr. Wang-Ti-Wu, publisher of the *United Daily News*. This event marked the culmination of my extensive schedule on the beautiful island of Formosa.

My government assignment was completed in Thailand in late November and my next stops were Manilla, Philippine Islands, and Honolulu, Hawaii, where I was sponsored by the Theo. H. Davies & Co., Far East Limited (agency representatives of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company). In Manilla I made three addresses before a combined audience of 2,500 people, and in Honolulu I addressed the Rotary Club of 250 members.

During my trip to the Far East I came to have a very high regard for the American representatives who make up our Foreign Service. Never have I met more sincere or dedicated public servants. After almost three months in the Far East I came home thinking that the enlighted forces of democracy will eventually prevail over the insidious forces of communism. Furthermore, I am happy to think that I had some little part in that great battle that is being waged all over the world to win the minds of men. Perhaps a State Department official was correct in his statement that "Abraham Lincoln is the most salable product this nation has to offer."

I arrived home on December 3, 1959, and filed a report with government officials in Washington, D.C. My rather detailed records indicated that I had made fifty-eight speeches in nine countries, had six conferences with university professors, and made five radio broadcasts for,

among others, the British Broadcasting Company and the Voice of America.

I brought home for the Lincoln Library and Museum dozens of books about Lincoln in foreign languages that I had been able to collect in the eight foreign countries that I visited. Most of them are paper back editions, and I feel sure that the Foundation's collection of foreign Lincoln books is one of the best in the country. Likely some of the books are the only copies to be found in any Lincoln library.

I received a letter from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, dated September 16, 1960, thanking me for my service as a member of the National Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission. He expressed the idea that "the Commission had done much to respond to, and to deepen, the interest which people everywhere have in Lincoln's ideals and in Lincoln as the 'Symbol of the Free Man.'"

After I had planned my speaking itinerary for the winter of 1965 I received a letter from Mr. Bert Maybe of Kansas City, Missouri, requesting that I speak before the Kansas City Civil War Round Table on either the 23rd of February or the 27th of April. I replied that I might be able to accept the February date but that I must have some time to work out my itinerary as to dates. On October 10th Mr. Maybe returned my letter on which was inscribed below my signature, "Please come we want you Harry Truman." He explained that he had informed the former President that I might accept the Round Table invitation and, "he said he would do what he could to help persuade me." The former President was Mr. Maybe's old Army captain.

I accepted the invitation, made my appearance, and was told that arrangements had been made for me to go to Independence to meet Mr. Truman personally. Unfortunately a severe snow storm the following day blocked all roads leading out of Kansas City and I was unable to visit him in his office at the Truman Library.

However, I had met President Truman previously in Fort Wayne, on September 11, 1958, when he helped to inaugu-

rate the Democratic political campaign of Vance Hartke, former Mayor of Evansville, Indiana, who was running for the United States Senate. James Fleming, the publisher of the Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette* and a leading Democrat in the community, made arrangements to present to Mr. Truman a gift that was significant of Fort Wayne. It was decided to select enough pamphlets relative to the history of the city to make up a three-volume work. They were in turn beautifully bound in full Morocco leather.

It was the desire of the Democratic committee to have someone present the books who had no known political affiliation, and I was contacted. I agreed to make the presentation.

The $100-a-plate dinner at the Coliseum was a long drawn out affair, but eventually the time came for me to present the three-volume work to the President. I stated, "It is generally conceded that the officeholder who serves his nation best . . . knows well the history of his country." And I pointed out that, "Without a doubt, the Honorable Harry S. Truman has a greater practical concept of the political history of the country than any other man that has ever served as President of the United States." In accepting the volumes of Fort Wayne history, President Truman remarked that "there are historical events related in these books that my smart librarians in Independence never heard of."

On February 8, 1965, while I was out lecturing, a telegram directed to me was received by my office: "The President and Mrs. Johnson hope you can join them and a group of distinguished devotees of Lincoln and the Lincoln period at the White House for luncheon Friday, February 12, 1965 at one o' clock. Formal invitation follows. RSVP by wire. The Social Secretary The White House."

The invitation presented me with a dilemma. I truly wanted to accept the invitation, and, when the matter was brought to the attention of the insurance company's officers, some of them felt I should go. On the other hand our General Agent in Dayton, Ohio, had engaged me for three television appearances and a speech for Lincoln's birthday,

and these engagements had been arranged weeks ahead. My final decision was to fill my schedule at Dayton. A telegram of regret was sent to the Social Secretary of the White House, and I stood by the commitments of the General Agent. Upon my return to Fort Wayne I received a thank you card for being a guest on the Dayton T.V. show "Conversation Piece." It was signed Phil Donohue.

On Thursday evening, January 30, 1968, during the "CBS Hour" at 10:00 p.m., the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company sponsored "A Night at Ford's Theatre." This was indeed a gala occasion with many Hollywood stars and nationally known artists who made the first appearance on the Ford's Theatre stage since that fateful night of April 14, 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

Quite a large contingent of home office personnel went to Washington on the company's aeroplane. There were buffet dinners and cocktail parties and many celebrities. It surely must have been the most glamorous social event ever sponsored by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. However, President Lyndon B. Johnson did not attend. There was a superstitious belief that no United States President should ever make an appearance in the theatre building. Since that date, however, later Presidents have broken that tradition.

One guest that evening whom I will always remember was Alice Roosevelt Longworth, who seemed during her entire lifetime always to attract attention. This particular evening she was dressed in a beautiful evening gown, but because it was a frightfully rainy night, she wore high-top boots. I have always been interested in Alice Roosevelt because I believe I remember reading once that she was married to Nicholas Longworth the day I was born.

I once appeared on the speaker's podium with a future President—Gerald R. Ford, The occasion was a Lincoln Day Tribute on February 11, 1972, in Lansing, Michigan. That evening there were six tributes to Abraham Lincoln which, of course, were most appropriate for a Republican rally. The third tribute was given by The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives.

The fifth tribute was given by just "Honorable" R. Gerald McMurty. My tribute dealt with Lincoln; the other tributes were largely political.

After the Lincoln-Douglas Debate centennial celebrations in 1958, the sesquicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birth in 1959, and the Civil War centennial celebration extending from 1961 to 1965, the public was pretty well surfeited with the history of our nation's middle period. Fewer books about Lincoln and the Civil War came from the presses, the unveiling of bronze statues of Lincoln more or less came to an end, the government sponsored no more Lincoln postage stamps, fewer Lincoln speeches were delivered, and politicians no longer evoked the name of Lincoln to achieve applause. The country was a little bored with the history of the Civil War era.

The historians went back to their desks and classes and started anew their research in American history. This hiatus had little effect on the Lincoln National Life Foundation. We continued to publish the monthly *Lincoln Lore*, the speaking tours were as popular with the public as ever, and we continued the never-ending quest to collect all the Lincoln information we could find.

I have always been a collector. I was born in an environment of collecting. My mother collected antiques as far back as I can remember, and as a Lincoln collector I tried to employ the skills I had learned from her to acquire material relative to the Sixteenth President. However, I must admit that I could never equal the results achieved in this endeavor by my fine friend James T. Hickey, the present curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library. At the same tender age when I was collecting Indian arrowheads, he was collecting Lincoln manuscripts. His achievements, even up to the present day, are fantastic.

In 1938 I made a fabulous personal acquisition. I purchased a corner cupboard made by Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln. I was compiling the information for a little book entitled *The Kentucky Lincolns on Mill Creek*, which was privately published in 1939 and beautifully printed by the Kingsport Press in a limited edition of 250

copies. Everywhere I went in the Mill Creek community in Hardin County (near Fort Knox), which was then quite rural, in search of information, people inquired whether I had seen the Tom Lincoln cupboard. Finally I went to see it. The owner, an elderly woman, thought it was valuable, but she had given up all hope of selling it. She proposed to me that, if I would buy the kitchen cabinet in Skidmore's Hardware store window, she would let me have it. The deal was made. When I tried to move it, it collapsed into a pile of cherry lumber. Later it was restored into a very beautiful piece of furniture.

Next I secured several affidavits relative to its history, and from what information I could gather the cupboard was in the wagon of Thomas Lincoln when he began his 1816 migration to Indiana. While the Lincolns were fording one of the swollen streams in the vicinity of the Mill Creek community, the cupboard tumbled out of the wagon and the father of the future President made no attempt to recover it. After the flooded waters subsided, John T. Cowley fished it out of the creek, and it became his property. Later it was sold at the Cowley sale to Mrs. Martha Viers for fifty cents. Mrs. Viers later gave the cupboard to Mrs. Amos Garner, and it was from her that I secured it.

I have never placed much faith in affidavits; however, this cupboard had a unique type of inlay on strips which were nailed to the jambs of the doors. Later on I learned that this was an idiosyncrasy of Thomas Lincoln and that four other cupboards attributed to him bear the same inlay (star and streamer) on strips. In some cases the dental (hole and tooth) inlay was the same and these too were identifying marks of Thomas Lincoln's handiwork. So far as I have been able to learn, no other cabinetmaker ever attached inlaid strips to the doorjambs of their cupboards.

Holman Hamilton in his book *The Three Kentucky Presidents, Lincoln, Taylor, Davis* (The University Press of Kentucky, 1978), in discussing the Sixteenth President's father, called him a skillful carpenter and stated (he said for my benefit) that his corner cupboards today have astronomical valuations. My mother, who lived in Elizabethtown, not to

be outdone by her son, was also able to purchase at a public sale a cherry hutch or what might be called a Jackson press that was made by Thomas Lincoln about the year 1807 for Richard Vernon of Hardin County. This piece of furniture was inherited by me at the time of my mother's death in 1965.

Elizabethtown was once a good place to acquire Thomas Lincoln furniture. I concluded that I would never again have the opportunity to secure another relic pertaining to Thomas Lincoln in Hardin County. However, I attended a funeral in Elizabethtown some years later and met a man and his wife with whom I was distantly acquainted who told me that they owned one of the ledgers of the Bleakley and Montgomery Store. These pioneer Elizabethtown merchants had carried Thomas Lincoln's account.

I immediately called at their home in southern Hardin County and was able to purchase the ledger for the Lincoln National Life Foundation. This made a total of three in the Foundation's collection. This latest acquisition has been designated as Ledger B 1805-1807. Such purchases as 1/2 calf skin, 1 bridle, 1 skane thread, 3 tw. tobacco, bals of whiskey, 1/2 doz. screws, 1 gimlet, Calomel & Jallop, 3 doz. buttons, and sandpaper are listed as having been purchased by Thomas Lincoln. Perhaps no better documentary source can be produced than the three Bleakley and Montgomery ledgers to attest to Thomas Lincoln's ability to provide his family with the necessities and comforts of life.

Surprising as it may seem, I was able to acquire some unique Lincoln items in Fort Wayne itself, far north of the Lincoln trail. On one occasion, while visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Shoaff, I was presented with a gift for the Foundation in the name of their son Thomas Shoaff. The gift was four unpublished carte-de-visite photographs of Lincoln's three grandchildren. They were originally secured by the donor's relative who was a neighbor of the Robert T. Lincolns when they resided in Chicago, Illinois. Each photograph bears the penciled notation of the child's name and age. Two of the photographs are of Jessie, depict-

ing her at the age of two and one-half and three years. The other two are of Abraham (Jack), age five, and Mary, age nine. The notations on each photograph bear a close resemblance to the handwriting of Mary Todd Lincoln, the grandmother.

About 1967 during the process of dismantling an old Fort Wayne house, a workman discovered a beautifully colored framed lithograph in remarkably fine condition. It was entitled, "President Lincoln Writing The Proclamation of Freedom, January 1st, 1863." This lithograph was printed by Ehrgott, Forbriger & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, after a painting by David G. Blyth. I was willing to pay a good price for the picture. At least the truck driver who sold it to me was surprised at the price that I offered. I, in turn, was surprised that I was able to buy it at any price. It was a major acquisition. Perhaps there are not more than a half dozen known to exist at the present time.

One peculiar Fort Wayne discovery relative to Lincoln's funeral, was a one-column newspaper broadside bearing the title *Gazette—Extra,* dated Thursday, April 20, 1865, carrying the exciting news: "President Lincoln's Remains to Stop at Fort Wayne." This information was the latest word from W.H.H. Terrell, the Adjutant-General stationed in Indianapolis, who had just received his instructions from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. This unique item was presented to me for the Foundation by F.A. Schack, a trust officer for the Fort Wayne National Bank, as a gift from the estate of Margaret J. Smith, who had apparently owned the broadside for many years.

This information is of curious interest because the Lincoln funeral route was later changed to go from Indianapolis by way of Lafayette and Michigan City to Chicago, and Lincoln's remains were never brought through Fort Wayne. Those local citizens who met at the Court House at seven o'clock the evening of April 20th to make the necessary arrangements must have had a feeling of frustration at their inability to exhibit their "Manifestations of respect worthy of the State of Indiana" once they heard that the route of travel had bypassed their city.

When I became the Director of the Foundation in 1956, there were still available real bargains in rare Lincoln publications, if one looked in the right places. I always made it a practice upon receiving my morning mail to check first the book catalogues for "sleepers." This proved most successful and some great rarities were obtained.

One of the best dealers in the country, if you were looking for rare Lincolniana, although this dealer would insist that his specialty was Americana, was Ernest Wessen, who had a book shop in Mansfield, Ohio. He always published a very attractive catalogue. It so happened that there was excellent mail service between Mansfield and Fort Wayne, and, after having secured Mr. Wessen's home telephone number, I would call him while he was having breakfast and give him the catalogue numbers of the rarities I wished to purchase. This worked very well for awhile. However, his other customers, such as the Library of Congress, were becoming disgruntled, and Mr. Wessen put a stop to my little game. I still grieve over the items that I failed to get after being subject to Wessen's restrictions.

One rarity that I acquired from Wessen was Ichabod Codding's *A Republican's Manual For The Campaign (1860). Facts For The People. The Whole Argument In One Book.* This ninety-six page publication is quite scarce. In 1962 I was able to locate only seven copies in the major Lincoln Libraries and in the possession of some private collectors of Lincolniana. Perhaps one reason for the rarity of the Codding book is that it was suppressed by the political friends of Lincoln. This was likely done with the permission of the author. While Codding was a well-intentioned radical, he assumed the role of an apologist for Mr. Lincoln. He frankly discussed in his book several points of opposition to the candidate, all the while insisting that he favored the Railsplitter on the general issues of the campaign.

One book that I failed to purchase from Wessen, although I got my order in first, was Denton Offutt's rare book on training wild horses. Offutt had employed Lincoln as a flatboatman, grocery clerk, and mill hand at New Salem. He also boasted of Lincoln's intellectual accom-

Lincoln scholars take their first look at the Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln's papers at the Library of Congress. McMurtry is seated across from Louis A. Warren, who would eventually lure him back

Library of Congress

to Fort Wayne. William H. Townsend is in the white suit. Behind him, left to right, are Arthur C. Hansen and Forman Lebold.

plishments and offered to bet that Abe Lincoln could outrun or out-wrestle any man in Sangamon County. I had often heard William H. Townsend relate that Offutt was once a resident of Lexington, Kentucky, and how a copy of his rare book was discovered in that city when an old chimney was demolished. Townsend was fortunate to obtain that book for his own private collection of Lincolniana. I was not so fortunate when I saw the same book in Wessen's catalogue. Wessen explained to me that he would have to let another customer have the rarity because for so long a period I had been receiving nearly everything I ordered for the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Another Ohio book dealer who often handled fine Lincolniana had his book catalogues printed in Fort Wayne. The printer would often give me a copy hot off the press, and with no competition I would leisurely pick out the items I wished to acquire. This practice, also, soon came to an end after the dealer learned of my unfair advantage. Of course, I always made it a practice to order by long distance telephone.

I often recall the thrill I once experienced upon receiving from a dealer a long list of manuscripts for sale. They were miscellaneous documents bearing the signatures of Lincoln's New Salem contemporaries. After carefully going over the list, I asked the dealer to send me everything listed in his entire catalogue.

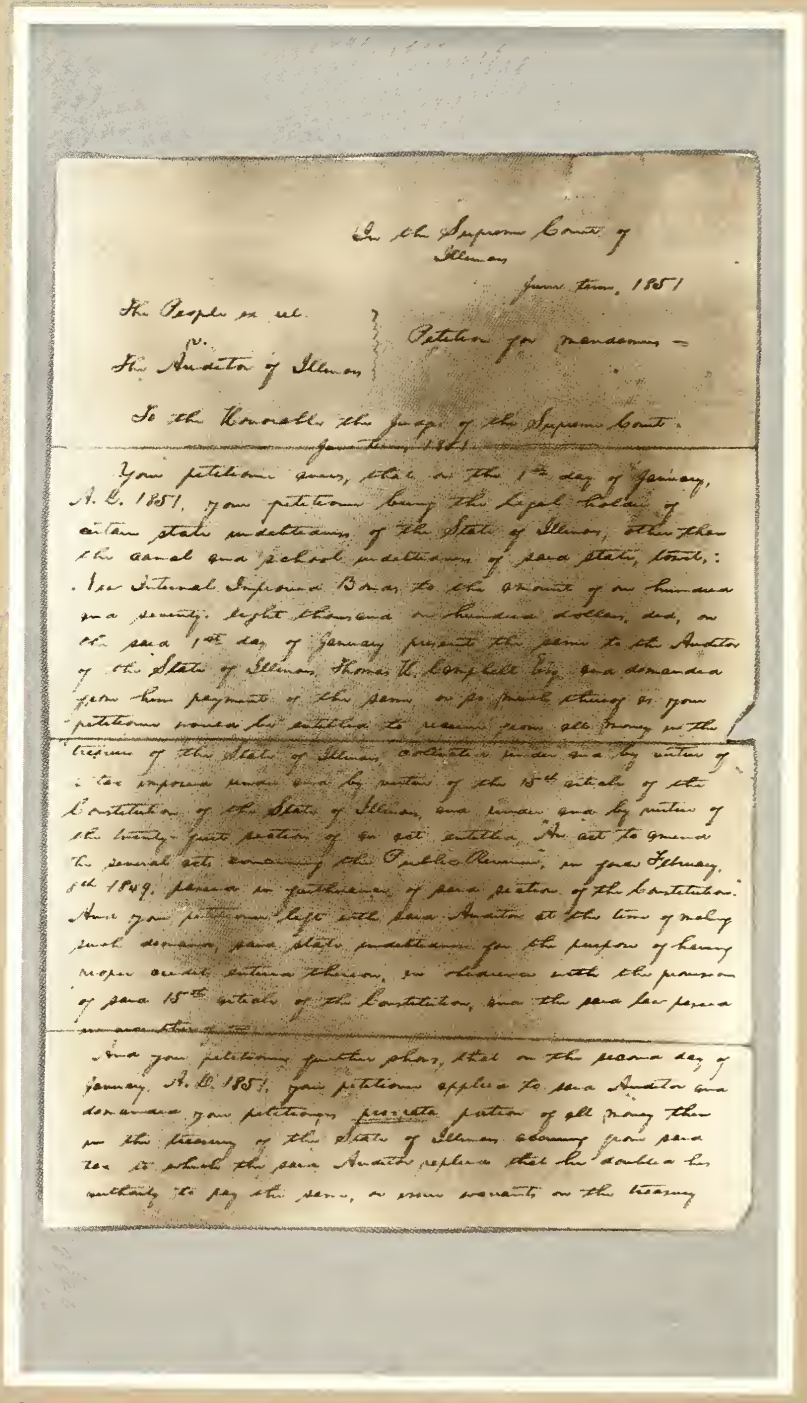
In the middle 1950s and early 1960s short, one-page, ordinary letters written by Abraham Lincoln were worth from $400 to $650. His endorsements on letters addressed to him or called to his attention were oftentimes available at $250 to $300. Letters written by Robert Todd Lincoln, the eldest son, had a going rate of $10. Of course, if the content of any of the above should deal with a vital historical event or topic, the price was much higher.[18]

On one occasion the executor of a woman's estate contacted me. The deceased lady's estate was without funds after paying all her burial expenses. She did, however, leave one Lincoln letter dated March 11, 1864, and addressed to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. The letter concerned

Daniel Christian, who was Mrs. Lincoln's coachman. He had been arrested for "constructive desertion" and was in jail in the Old Capitol Prison. Mrs. Lincoln wanted him released. She needed his services. Lincoln concluded the letter with the order, "Please send him to me." The executor wanted to purchase a gravestone for the deceased lady. I wanted the Lincoln letter for the Foundation. The deal was made. I was to pay for the gravestone and the lawyer-executor was to send me the letter. The whole procedure was carried out without any difficulty.

Unfortunately, some of my greatest acquisitions as a Lincoln collector cannot be made public. Though not dishonest, their acquisition by the University or the Foundation might be frowned upon by descendants of donors, and even some of the people who once sold the items might feel disgruntled with the advent of inflationary prices in the light of the price they originally received. Then, too, some items have been procured more or less as permanent gifts, not ever to be returned unless someone (family or institution) objected. These transactions museum curators like to keep confidential. Also occasionally gifts are received with the understanding that no publicity be given them and that the donors' names be kept confidential.

As luck would have it, I acquired a woolen shawl that Lincoln had presented to John G. Nicolay on which the secretary had his own initials, "J.G.N.," embroidered in the corners. There were buttons from Lincoln's clothing, dishes from his White House table, boot hooks to pull on his boots, a towel bandage to bind up his head after his assassination, a chantilly lace shawl worn by Mrs. Lincoln, locks of Lincoln's hair, oil paintings, statuary, manuscripts, broadsides, photographs, medals and every other conceivable Lincoln item that I could get my hands on. These rare items were purchased before inflation became a problem and when really rare, genuine items were available at unbelievably low prices. However, in the early 1970s it was becoming apparent that there were fewer choice relics available, and there were no longer many bargain prices. Apparently the "sleepers in book catalogues are almost a



In the Supreme Court of Illinois

June term, 1851

The People on rel.
v.
The Auditor of Illinois

Petition for mandamus —

To the Honorable the Judge of the Supreme Court.

June term, 1851

Your petitioner shows, that on the 1st day of January, A. D. 1851, your petitioner being the legal holder of certain state indebtedness of the State of Illinois, other than the canal and school indebtedness of said state, issued, viz: Illinois Internal Improvement Bonds, to the amount of one hundred and seventy eight thousand one hundred dollars, and, on the said 1st day of January presented the same to the Auditor of the State of Illinois, Thomas H. Campbell Esq. and demanded from him payment of the same or proper certificates of your petitioner would be entitled to receive from all money in the treasury of the State of Illinois, collected under and by virtue of the tax imposed under and by virtue of the 15th article of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and under and by virtue of the twenty first section of an act entitled "An act to amend the several acts concerning the Public Revenue," in force February 5th 1849, passed in furtherance of said section of the Constitution. And your petitioner left with said Auditor at the time of making such demand, said State indebtedness for the purpose of having proper credit entered thereon, in accordance with the provision of said 15th article of the Constitution, and the said law passed in pursuance thereof.

And your petitioner further shows, that on the second day of January, A. D. 1851, your petitioner applied to said Auditor and demanded your petitioners proportion of all money then in the treasury of the State of Illinois, accruing from said tax as above the said Auditor replied that he could not authorize to pay the same, as none accrued in the treasury

Though Joseph Cosey's forgeries have fooled many a Lincoln collector, this one led to his arrest.

thing of the past, and choice Lincoln relics are usually auctioned before enthusiastic buyers by Sotheby Parke Bernet Galleries of New York City.

I have always considered original Abraham Lincoln manuscripts of prime importance, and I have often maintained that it is on the basis of such documents that the status of a Lincoln library can be evaluated. While I was the Director of the Lincoln Library and Museum of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, I placed on exhibit some dozen of our major Lincoln letters and documents, taking into consideration their date, topic, and signature. At the same time I placed on display some forged letters and documents purporting to be written by the Sixteenth President. Some of these were forged autographs by Mrs. Lincoln's coachman, William P. Brown. Some were the work of unidentified forgers, and one was by that master forger Joseph Cosey. Much to my surprise, our visitors found the forgeries of greater interest than the originals.

I had been able to secure an excellent Cosey forgery. Believe it or not, I paid $75 for it and it would bring a much higher price today. It was the document that led to Cosey's arrest for making and selling fraudulent documents.

Every Lincoln collector should own a Cosey forgery. It is a constant reminder to be on the alert when a strange dealer offers to sell you a newly discovered Lincoln manuscript. The forged legal document that I purchased is written on antique paper, and the ink is chemically correct, and the penmanship is perfect. But this legal document, dated Sunday, June 1, 1851, at Ottawa, Illinois, is inaccurate as to the date and place. During this period Lincoln was practicing law in the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court in Illinois and on Saturday, May 31, he was in Decatur. On June 2, he was in Taylorsville. It was not until June 9 that the Illinois Supreme Court for the Third Grand Division began its session in Ottawa.

Then, too, the document has no believable provenance, and it does not reveal the slightest hint of Lincoln's literary talent, which is most always evident in his inimitable mode of expression. There is a story to the effect that once, when

Paul M. Angle, Secretary of the Chicago Historical Society, examined a sheaf of Cosey's Lincoln forgeries in New York City, he made the statement, perhaps not seriously, that he was going home and question the authenticity of every Lincoln document in the Chicago Historical Society.

During the course of my work in the Lincoln field I luckily received some recognition. My biographical sketch had appeared in *Who's Who In America* since the early 1940s, and during my travels on the lecture circuit my inclusion in this biographical work provided me with considerable prestige. Of course, during my career I was accorded many dubious honors. I was a member of the Civil War Press Corps, a Colonel of the Confederate Air Corps, a Knight of the Bowie Knife, a Tennessee High Private, a Kentucky Colonel, an Arkansas Traveler, and the holder of a key to Oklahoma City.

There were some meaningful attestations of my service in the Lincoln field. In 1946 Iowa Wesleyan College conferred on me the L.L.D. degree. In 1953 my Alma Mater, Centre College, conferred on me the degree of Litt. D., and in 1962 Lincoln College at Lincoln, Illinois, conferred on me the D.H.L. degree. In 1958 I was awarded the Lincoln Diploma of Honor by Lincoln Memorial University, and during the same year I was given the Philadelphia Lincoln-Civil Was Society bronze plaque for "outstanding contributions in the field of Lincoln history." I was also elected to honorary membership by several Lincoln groups and became a life member of some important historical organizations.

I retired in 1972, which was beyond the retirement age, but I was retained by the Foundation in the capacity of a consultant until May 1, 1973, when I was succeeded by the competent new active director, Mark Neely, Jr.

Again I was in for a surprise. The Board of Trustees of Lincoln Memorial University, largely motivated by my good friend Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, asked me to take over temporarily the editorship of the *Lincoln Herald*, the magazine I had helped to conceive in 1937 and had served first as associate editor (October 1937 to June 1947) and editor-in-chief (October 1947 to the Summer 1956 issue). I happily

accepted the assignment, and my first issue was dated Spring 1974. My editorship extended until the Fall 1977 issue. I enjoyed this work very much but found it difficult to utilize the unique resources of the college's collection of Lincolniana which were then largely in storage in Tennessee, about to be moved to a new Lincoln Library-Museum building. Also it was difficult to work with a printer located so far away as Knoxville.

Today I still try to keep in contact with all my friends in the Lincoln field, and I enjoy the somewhat heavy correspondence I receive and the long distance telephone calls. Occasionally I receive an honorarium for a speech (something I was never allowed to do as a subsidized speaker), pick up a fee for an appraisal, and get a check for an endorsement of a Lincoln item (usually a plate or a figurine).

I enjoy retirement and I do not have to think every month what new and unique topic will I discuss in *Lincoln Lore* this time.

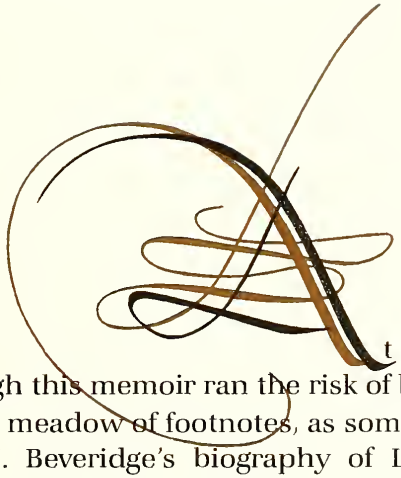
Was my lifelong pursuit of Lincoln worthwhile? Was such a highly specialized career worth the effort? Not for one moment have I ever regretted my decision to work in a historical library and better still one which would be connected with a museum. Perhaps I was lucky but I have often argued that specialization on any subject will lead to recognition.

Several times I have tried to influence exceptionally bright students to specialize in a course of study relative to Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War and to take an interest in bibliography, collecting, research, writing, and lecturing. There will always be a few excellent opportunities for employment where Lincoln libraries and museums are located. We will one day approach the year 2009, the two hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth, and all the celebrating, the commemorating, and the eulogizing of the Sixteenth President will have to be repeated. Unfortunately, I was never able to find a protege. The path was too long to travel and future recognition was beyond their horizon. Specialization with all of its unique endowments was never a part of their curriculum.

How grateful I am that I grew up in the Kentucky Lincoln country, that I happened to know the right people to get me started on a Lincoln career, that I was ready and able to play a role in the important Lincoln anniversary events, and that I made so many good friends in the great Lincoln fraternity.

Nom Upramai.

Footnotes



t one point it seemed as though this memoir ran the risk of becoming a rivulet of text in a meadow of footnotes, as someone once described Albert J. Beveridge's biography of Lincoln. Some notes seemed essential, especially to identify the many persons who would be familiar only to professionals in the Lincoln field, and professionals of a certain generation at that. The notes have been kept to a minimum, but it is hoped that they provide information that otherwise might be somewhat difficult to come by.

1. On January 30, 1925, explorer Floyd Collins was trapped in Kentucky's Sand Cave when a boulder fell on his foot. Sixteen days of rescue efforts, spiced with live interviews with the doomed Collins, made the entrapment a news sensation equalled only by the Lindbergh flight and Lindbergh kidnapping. Collins died before frantic rescuers could reach him.
2. M.L. Houser wrote numerous articles on Lincoln's education and taste in reading.
3. Now Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne.

4. I believe that I have one of the last notes Miss Tarbell ever wrote. On January 6, 1943, I wrote her relative to her article in the Boston *Sunday Globe*, April 22, 1923, entitled "Lincoln's Second Mother," in which she described a cupboard located in the courthouse at Rockport, the county seat of Spencer County, Indiana. She replied in pencil in the lower portion of my letter in a very feeble hand: "Sorry but I have been ill for some months. have no access to Lincoln notes Think picture you want is in what I have given the L. Room of Allegheny College. See pp. 132–133 my 'In the Footsteps of the Lincolns' Write Allegheny. Attention Miss M.P. Hendeechal Librar."

5. Houser is identified in footnote 2. Norman Hapgood wrote *Abraham Lincoln: The Man of the People* (New York: Macmillan, 1900). Ross F. Lockridge was a popular Indiana writer and author of *A. Lincoln* (Yonkers-on-Hudson: World Book Company, 1930). Paul M. Angle wrote *The Lincoln Reader* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1947) among many other Lincoln-related books. Harry E. Pratt wrote the definitive *Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln* (Springfield: Abraham Lincoln Association, 1943). Benjamin P. Thomas wrote *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952), widely regarded as the best one-volume life of Lincoln. Otto Eisenschiml, a chemist turned historian, wrote *Why Was Lincoln Murdered?* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1937). Edgar DeWitt Jones, a clergyman, wrote *Lincoln and the Preachers* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1948). Eleanor Gridley wrote *The Story of Abraham Lincoln, or the Journey from the Log Cabin to the White House* (Juvenile Publishing Co., 1900). Dr. W.A. Evans wrote *Mrs. Abraham Lincoln: A Study of Her Personality and Her Influence on Lincoln* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1932). Thomas I. Starr was a Lincoln collector from Michigan. Francis M. Van Natter wrote *Lincoln's Boyhood: A Chronicle of His Indiana Years* (Washington, D.C.: Public Affairs Press, 1963).

6. *Indiana Magazine of History*, XXXIII (December, 1937), 385–421.

7. He was, however, distantly related to Paul McClelland Angle.

8. Osborn H.I. Oldroyd (1842–1930) was a Civil War veteran and an early Lincoln collector. In the 1880s he rented Lincoln's Springfield home and served as custodian after Robert Todd Lincoln gave it to the state of Illinois. In 1893 Oldroyd moved to Washington and lived in the house where Lincoln died. He displayed his collection there. Henry Ford attempted to buy the collection for $50,000, a move that prompted the United States government to purchase it for the same amount in 1926.

9. Andrew Boyd's *Memorial Lincoln Bibliography* (Albany: A. Boyd, 1870) was the earliest Lincoln bibliography.

10. Joseph Benjamin Oakleaf's *Lincoln Bibliography* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Torch Press, 1925) added numerous items previously unknown to Lincoln bibliographers.

11. Dorothy Lamon Teillard was the daughter of Ward Hill Lamon.

12. Of those not elsewhere identified, F. Lauriston Bullard wrote *Abraham Lincoln and the Widow Bixby* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1946). Frederick Hill Meserve was the first great collector of Lincoln photographs. Lester O. Schriver was a trustee of Lincoln Memorial University and the author of several pamphlets on Lincoln. David J. Harkness was my collaborator on *Lincoln's Favorite Poets* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1959). Anthony Maresh was a Lincoln collector from Cleveland. William D. Bosler was a Lincoln devotee from Hollis, New York.

13. Harry E. Pratt was the critical reviewer. See the *Bulletin of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, Number 55 (March, 1939), pp. 7–8.

14. Of those not previously identified, Kenneth A. Bernard wrote *Lincoln and the Music of the Civil War* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1966). William H. Townsend, a Lincoln collector, wrote *Lincoln and His Wife's Home Town* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1929). Jay Monaghan wrote the definitive *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839–1939*, 2 vols. (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library, 1943–1945). Jonathan T. Dorris wrote *Pardon and Amnesty Under Lincoln and Johnson* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1953). Allan Nevins wrote *The Emergence of Lincoln*, 2 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1950), among many other general works on American history. Oliver R. Barrett was a noted Lincoln collector from Chicago. Bruce Catton wrote many extremely popular books about the military history of the Civil War. Bert Sheldon is a tireless seeker of facts about Lincoln, especially facts about his life in Washington. Bernhardt Wall was an etcher who produced numerous etched books about Lincoln, including the much-sought-after *Following Abraham Lincoln, 1809–1865*, which appeared in eighty-five small volumes from 1931 to 1942. Bess V. Ehrmann wrote *The Missing Chapter in the Life of Abraham Lincoln* (Chicago: Walter M. Hill, 1938). Roy P. Basler edited the definitive *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 9 vols. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1953–1955). Ernest Wessen was a famous Ohio dealer in manuscript and printed Americana. George Fort Milton wrote *Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column* (New York: Vanguard Press, 1942). Lloyd Lewis wrote *Myths After Lincoln* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1929). Clyde Walton was the head of the Illinois State Historical Library. T. Harry Williams wrote *Lincoln and His Generals* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952). Reinhard H. Luthin wrote an excellent one-volume biography, *The Real Abraham Lincoln* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1960). Rufus Rockwell Wilson wrote *Lincoln in Caricature* (Elmira, N.Y.: Primavera Press, 1945). David C. Mearns edited *The Lincoln Papers*, 2 vols. (Garden

City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1949). C. Percy Powell edited the third volume of *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology, 1809–1865* (Washington, D.C.: Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, 1960). E.B. "Pete" Long wrote *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861–1865* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1971). J. Winston Coleman, Jr., is a collector of Kentuckiana and author of *A Bibliography of Kentucky History* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1949). Irving Stone, the famed novelist, wrote *Love Is Eternal* (New York: Doubleday, 1954), a fictionalized account of Lincoln's life with Mary Todd. Thomas D. Clark was a noted historian at the University of Kentucky. James G. Randall wrote the best modern biography of Lincoln, *Lincoln the President*, 4 vols. (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1945–1955).

15. John Sherman Cooper was a prominent Kentucky Senator.

16. See Cliff Milnor's "Lines and Angles," *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*, November 16, 1960.

17. Of those not identified previously, Robert V. Bruce wrote *Lincoln and the Tools of War* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1956). Ishbel Ross was the author of *The President's Wife: Mary Todd Lincoln* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1973). John S. Goff wrote *Robert Todd Lincoln: A Man in His Own Right* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969). Douglas C. McMurtrie was a Lincoln devotee from Chicago and an expert on type design. Gabor S. Boritt wrote *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream* (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1978). Justin G. Turner was a Lincoln collector and coauthor of *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972). Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt, the daughter of Frederick H. Meserve, was coauthor of *Twenty Days* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), a pictorial history of Lincoln's funeral. David Plowden produced the pictorial *Lincoln and His America, 1809–1865* (New York: Viking Press,

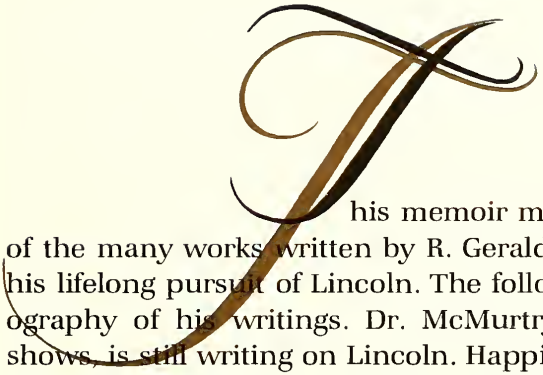
1970). Randle Bond Truett was an expert on philatelic Lincolniana. Ralph Borreson wrote *When Lincoln Died* (New York: Appleton-Century, 1965). Paul Simon is the author of *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative Years* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965). John Y. Simon is the editor of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, 8 vols. to date (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1967–1979). James T. Hickey is the Curator of Lincolniana at the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. Weldon Petz wrote *In the Presence of Abraham Lincoln* (Harrogate, Tennessee: Lincoln Memorial University Press, 1973). Kenneth P. Williams wrote *Lincoln Finds a General: A Military Study of the Civil War*, 5 vols. (New York: Macmillan, 1949–1959). Harold M. Hyman is the coauthor of *Stanton: The Life and Times of Lincoln's Secretary of War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1962). Ruth Painter Randall, James G. Randall's wife, wrote *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1952). Marion Dolores Pratt and Lloyd A. Dunlap assisted Roy P. Basler in editing *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. Otto R. Kyle wrote *Abraham Lincoln in Decatur* (New York: Vantage Press, 1957). Charles H. Coleman wrote *Abraham Lincoln and Coles County, Illinois* (New Brunswick: Scarecrow Press, 1955). Philip Van Doren Stern wrote *The Man Who Killed Lincoln: The Story of John Wilkes Booth* (New York: Random House, 1939). Wayne C. Temple was the editor of the *Lincoln Herald*. Lloyd Ostendorf is coauthor of the definitive *Lincoln in Photographs: An Album of Every Known Pose* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963). William E. Baringer wrote *A House Dividing: Lincoln as President Elect* (Springfield: Abraham Lincoln Association, 1945). Richard N. Current is the author of *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1958). William B. Hesseltine wrote *Lincoln and the War Governors* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1948). King V. Hostick is a noted dealer in Lincolniana in Springfield, Illinois. Leroy H. Fischer wrote *Lincoln's Gadfly: Adam Gurowski*

(Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964). Chicago attorney Willard L. King wrote *Lincoln's Manager: David Davis* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1960). Harold K. Sage wrote a pamphlet on *Jesse W. Fell and the Lincoln Autobiography* (Normal, Ill.: Original Smith Printing, 1971). Joseph George, Jr., has written many articles on Lincoln and Catholic Americans. Philip D. Sang was a Chicago collector of Lincolniana and Americana. Fred Schwengel is a Lincoln devotee and former member of the House of Representatives. Bell I. Wiley wrote numerous books on common soldiers and civilians during the Civil War. Grady McWhiney edited *Grant, Lee, Lincoln and the Radicals* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1964). Stefan Lorant is the author of *Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1969). H. Jack Lang wrote *The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln* (New York: Greenberg, 1941). Dr. John K. Lattimer is the author of *Kennedy and Lincoln: Medical and Ballistic Comparisons of Their Assassinations* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1980). Harry Wood is an Arizona artist interested in Lincoln's face. Carl Haverlin is a Lincoln collector, now living in California. Adin Baber was a student of Lincoln and Hanks genealogy from Illinois.

18. Today, Lincoln letters fetch $1500-$2500. Endorsements sell for $900-$1250. Robert's letters sell in the $75-$100 range.

Lecturing in Korea in September 1959.

年記念特別講演会



his memoir mentions only a few of the many works written by R. Gerald McMurtry during his lifelong pursuit of Lincoln. The following is a full bibliography of his writings. Dr. McMurtry, as this memoir shows, is still writing on Lincoln. Happily for the reader, if not for the bibliographer, there are other Lincoln works in progress by Dr. McMurtry. For those who wish to keep this bibliography up to date, these works will be noted in future issues of *Lincoln Lore*.

This bibliography of the works of R. Gerald McMurtry was compiled by Ruth E. Cooke.

I. Books

1938. *A Series of Monographs Concerning the Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky.* Elizabethtown: Enterprise Press, 1938.

1939. *Let's Talk of Lincoln.* Harrogate: Department of Lincolniana, Lincoln Memorial University, 1939.

1939. *The Kentucky Lincolns on Mill Creek.* Harrogate: Department of Lincolniana, Lincoln Memorial University, 1939.

1943. *Ben Hardin Helm: "Rebel" Brother-in-Law of Abraham Lincoln—with a Biographical Sketch of His Wife and an Account of the Todd Family of Kentucky.* Chicago: Civil War Round Table, 1943.

1959. *Lincoln's Favorite Poets* (in collaboration with David J. Harkness). Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1959.

II. Edited Publications

1947–1956. Editor, *Lincoln Herald,* (October, 1947–Spring-Summer, 1956).

1956–1973. Editor, *Lincoln Lore,* Numbers 1421–1620, (1956–1973).

1974–1977. Editor, *Lincoln Herald,* (Spring, 1974–Fall, 1977).

III. Pamphlets and Brochures

1932. *The Lincolns in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.* Fort Wayne: Lincolniana Publishers, 1932.

1934. *Influence of Riley's "Narrative" upon Abraham Lincoln.* [reprint from *Indiana Magazine of History,* (June, 1934)]

1934. *The Different Editions of the "Debates of Lincoln and Douglas."* [reprint from *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society,* (April, 1934)]

1935. *Lincoln Knew Shakespeare.* [reprint from *Indiana Magazine of History,* (December, 1935)]

1936. *Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Kentucky: The Center of Kentucky Lincoln Country* (in collaboration with Wesley E. Carter). Elizabethtown: Enterprise Press, 1936.

1937. *The Lincoln Migration from Kentucky to Indiana—1816.* [reprint from *Indiana Magazine of History,* (December, 1937)]

1939. *A New Portrait of Lincoln's Childhood Environment.* [reprint from *Lincoln Group Papers.* Chicago: Black Cat Press, (1936)]

1939. *The Department of Lincolniana of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee.* Harrogate: Department of Lincolniana, Lincoln Memorial University, 1939.

1940. *The Lincoln Log Cabin Almanac.* Harrogate: Department of Lincolniana, Lincoln Memorial University, 1940.

1941. *A Great Lincoln Collection.* [reprint from *Lincoln Herald,* (March, 1941)]

1945. *Lincoln and the Hutchinson Family Singers.* [reprint from *Lincoln Herald,* (December, 1944)]

1945. *Poet and President. Riley's Estimate of Lincoln.* [reprint from *Lincoln Herald,* (February, 1945)]

1946. *Lincoln's Friend, Douglas.* Elsah, Illinois: Principia Corporation, 1946.

1947. *The Harlan-Lincoln Tradition at Iowa Wesleyan College.* Harrogate: Department of Lincolniana. Lincoln Memorial University, 1947.

1947. *The Lincoln Contacts of Louis A. Warren.* Fort Wayne: Lincoln National Life Foundation, [1947].

1948. *Why Collect Lincolniana?* Chicago: Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 1948.

1959. *Centre College, John Todd Stuart and Abraham Lincoln.* [reprint from *Filson Club History Quarterly,* (April, 1959)]

1959. *Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm: Kentucky Brother-in-Law of Abraham Lincoln. A Condensation*

of the Original Study. Madison: Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin, 1959.

1959. *Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 1779–1879. The First Century of its Existence.* [reprint from *Filson Club History Quarterly,* (April, 1938)]

1959. *The Harlan-Lincoln Tradition of Iowa Wesleyan College.* [reprint from *Lincoln Herald,* (October, 1946)]

1960. *The Thomas Lincoln Mill Creek Farm (The Nall-Lincoln Subdivision).* Elizabethtown: Marvin Lee Nall, 1960.

1962. *Beardless Portraits of Abraham Lincoln Painted from Life.* Fort Wayne: Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 1962.

1963. *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and Its Surroundings (Written in 1869 by Samuel Haycraft): Comments on the Book with a Section Devoted to the Lincoln-Haycraft Correspondence of 1860.* Elizabethtown: Woman's Club, 1963.

1964. *Pugilism and Politics in Lincoln's Time.* Fort Wayne: Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County, 1964.

1965. *Lincoln Putting on (H)airs.* Fort Wayne: Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, 1965.

1966. *Fort Wayne's Contacts with Abraham Lincoln.* Fort Wayne: Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County, 1966.

1966. *Lincoln Highlights in Indiana History.* Fort Wayne: Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, 1966.

1971. *Lincoln Highlights in Indiana History* (Revised edition with account of Lincoln's visit to Indiana in 1849). Fort Wayne: Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, 1971.

IV. Articles

1932. "Jenny Lind's Tour of Kentucky, April, 1851," *Kentucky Progress Magazine,* IV (January, 1932), 32, 45–46.

1932. "Lincoln as a War Executive," *Foreman and Industrial Executive,* (September, 1932).

1933. "Lincoln's Inaugural Train," *Locomotive Engineers Journal,* (February, 1933), pp. 93–94.

1933. "The Derringer Pistol that Killed Abraham Lincoln," *Hobbies,* XXXVIII (October, 1933), 126.

1933. "The Health of Abraham Lincoln," *Everybody's Health,* XVIII (February, 1933), 6–7.

1933. "The Lincolns and Modern Transportation," *Rail,* XVIII (February, 1933), 8.

1933. "The Two-Year Residence of General George A. Custer in Elizabethtown," *Kentucky Progress Magazine,* V (Summer, 1933), 32–33, 50.

1933. "Thomas Lincoln," *Hobbies,* XXXVII (February, 1933), 14.

1933. "Thomas Lincoln in Elizabethtown, Kentucky,' *Kentucky Progress Magazine,* V (Winter Edition, 1933), 32–33, 47.

1934. "Commonwealth v. A. Lincoln," *National Republic,* XXI (March, 1934), 5.

1934. "James Buchanan in Kentucky, 1813," *Filson Club History Quarterly,* VIII (April, 1934), 73–87.

1934. "Lincoln and Tennyson," *Hobbies,* XXXVIII (February, 1934), 9.

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A Note on the Type

The text of this book was set in Zapf Book Light. Hermann Zapf's brilliant design brings to the art of typography a comfortable new typeface, formal enough for widespread use and generously tempered with calligraphic warmth. Described in intimate terms, it extends a pleasant greeting and offers a cordial handshake. The letter very easily wins a comparable response from the reader.

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